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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Investments at 'Highest' Level in 8 Years

NC2205124794 Paris AFP in English 1151 GMT 22 May 94

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 22 (AFP)—An increase in oil revenues and reforms in several Arab countries pushed up domestic investments in 1992 to their highest level in eight years, an official Arab report said Sunday.

Investments in the Arab League's 22 members stood at 112.16 billion dollars in 1992 compared with 97.97 billion dollars in 1991, 104 billion dollars in 1990 and 91 billion dollars in 1985, the report said.

The report by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) provided no figures in 1993 but economists in the region said investments were expected to be lower in 1993 due to a sharp decline in oil prices.

"From the 1993 budgets in most Arab states, especially the Gulf oil-producers, you could see a rise in expenditure but a small part was allocated for new projects while the private sector still heavily depends on government spending," an Abu Dhabi-based economist said.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial institution, said Arab oil earnings increased by 10.4 percent to 102.6 billion dollars in 1992 from 92.9 billion dollars in 1991 due to resumption of Kuwaiti oil exports after the Gulf war.

Investments in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) accounted for more than half the total Arab public and private investment in 1992, the study showed.

In Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil-producer and exporter, they stood at 29.57 billion dollars compared with 22.3 billion dollars in 1991.

They rose to 7.7 billion dollars from 6.1 billion dollars in Kuwait, to 14.19 billion dollars from 13 billion dollars in Iraq, and to 7.86 billion dollars from 7.22 billion dollars in the UAE, the study showed.

Domestic investments also increased in all member states carrying out economic reforms.

In 1992, they stood at 1.5 billion dollars in Jordan, at 3.79 billion dollars in Tunisia, at 8.25 billion dollars in Egypt, at 6.8 billion dollars in Morocco, and 1.96 billion dollars in Yemen.

Djibouti and Mauritania emerged with the lowest investment, standing at 88.3 million dollars and 180.6 million dollars respectively. The report gave no figures for war-battered Somalia and the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Investment increased in most Arab countries but key oil- producers remained by far the main investors," the report said.

It showed investment in Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states stood at 83.6 billion dollars in 1992, compared with 28.5 billion dollars in the remaining League members.

The report showed those nine oil-producers also accounted for the bulk of public and private consumption, estimated at 265.5 billion dollars in 1992 of the total Arab consumption of 378 billion dollars.

Government consumption, which includes spending on services, stood at 97.3 billion dollars in those nine states, far higher than consumption in the remaining members of 20.3 billion dollars.

The report gave no details of the investments but it showed it affected most components of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The GDP in the non-oil industrial sector grew to 50 billion dollars in 1992 from 40.6 billion dollars in 1991, while the communication sector increased to 32.4 billion dollars from 31 billion dollars,

In trade and hotels, it rose to 63.9 billion dollars from 54.7 billion dollars. Agriculture surged to 66.7 billion dollars from 57.5 billion dollars and water, and electricity to 5.77 billion dollars from 5.26 billion dollars.

As a result, the total GDP grew by around 9.7 percent to 483.4 billion dollars in 1992 from 440 billion dollars in 1991. Those nine oil-producers accounted for 354 billion dollars, nearly 73 percent of the total Arab GDP in 1992.

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of 'Arafat Speech in Johannesburg

TA2305171394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 94 p A2

["Text" of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech at a mosque in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 10 May, edited by Nadav Shragay and Yosi Torpstein; all notations between parentheses are editors' notes]

[Text] In the name of Allah the merciful and compassionate. My brothers, I must thank you for allowing my to come here to pray together. Allah willing, we will soon pray in Jerusalem, the first site (chronologically speaking) of Islam. My brothers, it must be understood that after the Gulf war the main conspiracy was to completely eliminate the Palestinian problem from the international agenda. It was not easy, because our men paid the price of the Gulf war, as you know.

Our community in Kuwait, which was one of the largest and richest, was kicked out of Kuwait. Not only that, but later we were presented with the Bush initiative on the Madrid conference. And, it was not easy to agree to go to the Madrid conference, because of its very difficult conditions. Why? So as not to give them a reason and an excuse to ignore the question of Jerusalem and the question of Palestine. This must be understood. Now, after this agreement, which is the first step and nothing more than that, believe me—a lot remains to be done.

The jihad will continue. Jerusalem is not only of the Palestinian people, but of the entire Islamic nation. You are responsible for Palestine and for Jerusalem. "The land that was promised to God's fearful." ('Arafat quotes a Koran verse in which Allah addresses Abraham on this issue.)

After this agreement you must understand that our main battle is not to get the maximum out of them here and there. The main battle is over Jerusalem, the third most sacred site of the Muslims. Everybody must understand it. Therefore, I insisted before signing (on the Gaza and Jericho agreement in Cairo) to get a letter from the Israelis that Jerusalem is one of the items for discussion in the negotiations. We are not talking about (a discussion of) Israel's permanent status. No. We are talking about the permanent status of Palestine. It is very important that everybody understand it.

In this letter, which they wrote and I have in my possession although I have not divulged it so far, I insisted that they mention that we are responsible for all the holy sites, Christian and Muslim. I insisted that the name of the Christian holy site be mentioned before the name of the Muslim holy site, because I must be faithful to the agreement between Caliph 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab and Patriarch Sophronius. Therefore, I insisted that they mention in the letter the Christian holy places next to the Muslim holy places.

Here we are, and I must speak candidly. I cannot do it on my own, without the help of the Islamic nation. And I cannot say like the Jews: You and your god fight alone. No. You must come to fight, to begin the jihad to liberate Jerusalem, your first shrine. It is very important. Therefore, me and my colleagues insisted on mentioning in the agreement that the negotiations about Jerusalem will start no later than the beginning of the third year, and that immediately after the signing of the agreement we will start the negotiations about Jerusalem. About the future of Jerusalem.

You saw me when I hesitated (in the signing ceremony in Cairo). I did it because I insisted on mentioning Jerusalem. I did not want this promise from Rabin, but from the two cosponsors of the process, Christopher and Kozyrev, and the witness, President Mubarak. And this was done. Everybody must understand that there is a constant conspiracy against Jerusalem. As mentioned, in the next three years, (negotiations) will start no later than the beginning of the third year. They (the Israelis) will try to wipe out and change the demography of Jerusalem. This is very important.

We must be very careful and give it priority, because there is no higher priority than Jerusalem. We must give it top priority, not just as Palestinians and not just as Arabs, but also as Muslims and as Christians. I mentioned it before to the Archbishop of Canterbury. I told them that if they want the Holy Sepulcher and the Christian holy sites they must not only talk to the Israelis but also to the Jews.

We are not against the Jews. We must remember what the Koran says: "Within the people of (the prophet) Moses there is a nation (a group) that believes in justice and lives by it." For your information, there are two Jewish sects in Palestine: The Samaritans in Nabulus and the Neturey Karta in Jerusalem. They refuse to recognize the State of Israel and regard themselves as Palestinians. I am saying this to prove that their statements that Jerusalem is their capital are wrong. It is not their capital.

It is our capital and yours. It is the first most sacred site of Islam ('Arafat is referring to the first sacred place to which the Muslims turned in their prayers; later the direction of their prayers was changed to Mecca). But, we need your support. This is the message of the people in Palestine and our population in Jerusalem. They are calling on you and on everybody everywhere. I am sure that sooner or later we will pray in Jerusalem, together.

I regard this agreement as no more than the agreement signed between our prophet Muhammad and the Quiraish (tribe) in Mecca ('Arafat is referring to the Treaty of Hudaibiya in the year 628 in which Muhammad promised peace for 10 years, but violated it two years later when he conquered Mecca which had been ruled by the Quiraish). We must remember that Caliph 'Umar refused to accept this agreement and considered it "an inferior peace agreement." However, the prophet Muhammad accepted it, and we now accept the peace agreement, but (this) in order to continue on the way to Jerusalem. Together and not alone.

We must say clearly that circumstances are very, very critical. I will give you one example. Do you remember what happened after the massacre in Hebron? For 22 days the UN Security Council hesitated to pass a resolution condemning this massacre. Do you remember? Twenty-two days because of one word I insisted on including in this resolution; (namely, adding to the term) "the occupied territories" (the words) "including Jerusalem." They tried to argue with me to omit Jerusalem, but I refused and got my way.

Once again, I must thank you from the bottom of my heart and I am speaking to you with sincerity, from one brother to another. We need you as Muslims and as mujahidin (jihad warriors). It is a pleasure for me to thank my old friend and elder brother, Nelson Mandela, for inviting me to visit South Africa for the first time.

My presence here is part of your struggle. I am telling him on your behalf and on behalf of the Islamic nation that we will be by his side, and we are sure he will continue to be by our side. Once again, I must say "they will enter the mosque as they entered it before" ('Arafat is quoting a Koran verse). Until victory, until Jerusalem, until Jerusalem, until Jerusalem.

Palestinian Officials React to Rabin's Statement

TA2305173494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Here are some Palestinian reactions to Rabin's demand that Yasir 'Arafat reaffirm in writing his commitment to the peace process.

Palestinian Council Member Furayh Abu-Middayn says that crises were expected to crop up in the course of the negotiations, but if Israel seeks to limit the autonomy to the Gaza boundaries, it should say so candidly, rather than continue to come up with new pretexts.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the real danger to the peace process does not lie in Yasir 'Arafat's remarks, but rather in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's actions.

Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Supreme Civilian Coordination Committee, told Qol Yisra'el correspondent Mark Weiss that Israel has posed preconditions for the resumption of negotiations that the PLO repudiates.

Al-Tibi: PNC To Revoke Anti-Israel Clauses

TA2305194494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said tonight that the next Palestine National Council [PNC] convention will revoke Palestinian Covenant clauses contravening the Oslo agreement, including those calling for Israel's annihilation.

He announced that the PNC will convene soon, and for the first time in six years, the convention will be held in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. al-Tibi stressed that his remarks were made with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's knowledge.

Sha'th: No PNC Meeting in Gaza Until Calm Restored

TA2405105494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th does not see a possibility of convening the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Gaza in the near future. Sha'th told Sa'id Mu'addi, a correspondent for Qol Yisra'el in Arabic, that the PNC could only be convened in Gaza after calm and security are restored.

Al-Rujub Discusses Preventive Security Guidelines

TA2305112194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 23 May 94 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yesterday, without any secrecy, the establishment of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service [PPSS] was officially announced. Jibril al-Rujub, head of the PPSS in the West bank, announced: "Today, we officially started functioning as a security service." Later he added that this was only the official announcement. "In fact," he said, "we have been operating for several months." [passage omitted]

Al-Rujub made another, quite official statement: "The PPSS was established to provide for the security of Palestinian civilians and to defend their freedom."

Explaining the PPSS policy, he stressed: "There will be no cooperation between the Palestinian intelligence services and the Israeli security services. We signed the Gaza and Jericho agreement, which speaks of security coordination, and there will be coordination." [passage omitted]

The second principle guiding the PPSS, according to al-Rujub, will be to safeguard democracy: "We will disqualify no democratic struggle and will not rule out any opposition that operates democratically. It is every man's right to express his opinion, but we will allow no one to impose his stands and will on anybody else. If, for example, some body or group should call for a strike, they are free to do so. If, however, they use terror to impose a strike, we will not let them do so."

The third principle governing the PPSS is the territorial scope of its operations throughout the territories, "including East Jerusalem, because it is occupied territory."

Al-Rujub further said that the first goal of the PPSS will be to settle accounts with Palestinian collaborators. His remarks on this issue sounded a bit apologetic: "Unlike other nations under occupation, the phenomenon of collaborators here was not that terrible. It is a dangerous matter, and we must deal with it." Al-Rujub promised that they will deal with the matter while examining each case on an individual basis. "We will treat each person in accordance with the gravity of his crime. As of today, we will not allow collaborators among us," he said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Consuls Briefed on Orient House Role in Contacts

TA2005135294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 May 94 p 3

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The Palestinian center at East Jerusalem's Orient House will remain the center of all political and diplomatic activities. As has been the custom to date, all diplomatic and political meetings with official Palestinian figures will continue being arranged through the responsible Orient House figures. This arrangement is not an organizational procedure but rather a measure designed to emphasize Jerusalem's place in the Palestinians' political doctrine and to reiterate the need to discuss the status of Jerusalem in due time.

Remarks in this spirit were made yesterday by Faysal al-Husayni at a special meeting with Jerusalem-based foreign consuls held at Orient House.

Al-Husayni told the consuls who attended the meeting that according to the Palestinian procedures, all of their activities or those of official envoys from their countries will be arranged through the Palestinian center in East Jerusalem. Formal contacts will be always held in Jerusalem. Visits to the self-rule territory will be coordinated through and with the Jerusalem office.

DAVAR has been informed by al-Husayni's office that the consuls voiced their approval of the arrangement.

Supplement Examines Palestinian Autonomy

TA2205190194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 13 May 94 pp 8,9, 30

[Article by Tzvi Gilat: "Here and There in the Land of Autonomy"]

[Text] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah and Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq were invited to a symposium at a Tel Aviv theater earlier this week. 'Amira Hess, an HA'ARETZ reporter who was also slated to participate in the symposium, proposed to meet them in Tel Aviv before the event. The problem was that Abu-Zayidah and 'Abd-al-Razzaq, with approximately 30 years in prison between them, do not visit Tel Aviv very often. Where should they meet? "You decide," they said. "No, you two decide," Hess replied. There is one place in Tel Aviv every Gazan knows. That is where they go to collect bodies; where taxi drivers take them to introduce them to foremen of construction sites; where the authorities throw them when they are caught without a permit to stay in Israel. "Let's meet at Abu-Kabir [site of a forensic institute and a lockup facility]," the two men proposed.

At the very same time, thousands of Gaza Strip residents were anxiously waiting along the roads leading to the Rafah border checkpoint for the first contingents of the Palestinian police. Abu-Zayidah and 'Abd-al-Razzaq did not have to work hard to convince their Tel Aviv audience of the need for a strong police force. A few minutes after they began taking questions from the audience, five youths who had up to that moment taken cover behind "Peace Now" T-shirts and "There Is A Mandate for Peace" stickers, leapt up and shouted: Sufyan, go back to Gaza, you murderer. A scuffle ensued and the police were summoned to see the rioters out. An Israeli police officer, who looked exhausted, had to stay until the end of the symposium to make sure that the two Palestinian leaders would be permitted to speak without interruption.

"I understand you," Abu-Zayidah bitterly told the right-wing rioters. "It is hard for you. A lot of Palestinians also find this peace hard to swallow. Even though there is peace, your soldiers still shoot us every day in Gaza and Dayr al-Balah. So, some people find it hard. But, it will not help them, just as it will not avail you. There will be peace."

The Gaza Strip is changing from day to day, sprucing up, erasing the soot, dust, and agony of the occupation. It is still not the ideal place to live, but its quality is improving. People are thinking about tomorrow, not just about today, and this is having an effect.

In recent weeks, thick ropes have been stretched on the roads in the streets of Jabalyah. This is the local version of road humps to force drivers to slow down. As is known, it has been a long time since Gaza has observed any traffic rules. There, a child opens his front door and he is already in the middle of the road. There have been cases when a child ran after a friend and found himself run over by a car. So, they are stretching ropes.

Construction work can be seen in every corner. Housing projects are being built. Carpet dealer Hamis al-Halawi, not a well-liked man in Gaza—he owns a four-story clothing and carpet store—covered the whole building with a huge Palestine flag, just as the Habima Theater in Tel Aviv was once covered with the Israeli flag.

'Abd-al-Qadr al-Husayni Street in the Rimal neighborhood already looks like a government ministry compound: offices of the Engineers Association, the Development Society, the Family Planning Society, the Trade Union Federation. "Did Hayim Ramon win? We will have to meet him. So far we have discussed workers' rights with Haberfeld."

New huts for bathers are being built on the seashore. Until the intifadah, Gazans used to go to the beach in Ashqelon. Since the intifadah the seashore is associated with the "Seashore Outpost" and the "Ansar-2 camp," two notorious sites on the waterfront. Swimming was no fun then. Things are different now.

Peddlers expose their wares in the middle of the street. Many Gazans feel the goods, with a view to renovating their homes. New graffiti has been sprayed on the wall outside Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's home: "We Will Build Our State With Our Own Two Hands," and "Palestine Opens Its Arms to the Arriving Policemen." Now the graffiti is aesthetic, pretty, and colorful. They can stand in front of the wall with their spray cans and paint uninterruptedly, not like it used to be.

Thousands of people still subsist on flour and water. A demonstration was staged last week in front of the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] offices demanding an increase in the rations. Local doctors are worried about the growing incidence of malnutrition which weakens the body's immune system, particularly in children. All these are attendant consequences of the prolonged closure. Gaza is awash in cheap Israeli canned food. The reason: its expiry date is long overdue. However, when people are hungry they eat cans of corn that should not be used after November 1993. Most cans are marked "kosher for Pesah."

On empty stomachs, children, women, and the elderly stand for three days along the roads awaiting the arrival of the Palestinian police. They want to see with their eyes and touch with their hands the Palestinian weapons. Against this backdrop, clashes erupt between them and the soldiers guarding the roads. These are truly the hardest hours of the end. The soldiers also stand in the blazing sun for hours, they are also thirsty, and they also want to see how all this ends. So, the joy of getting out is accompanied by the music of rubber bullets, the smell of tear gas, and a bitterness which will turn into sweeping elation as soon as the first Blazer van donated by the Americans arrives.

The Car Licensing Bureau is crowded. Ten meters away, in the police station, some 20 Israeli policemen are locked behind the fences, waiting for the transfer of powers. But, in the Car Licensing Bureau it is business as usual. Earlier in the week there was a clash with soldiers. To settle the dispute, Palestinian policemen were summoned. Their uniforms are blue, exactly as those of the Israelis, but without a flak jacket; they do not yet bear arms, only a tag with the word "police" in Arabic on their sleeves. In the meantime, this will do as a source of authority.

What will happen in the future in the Car Licensing Bureau? "Nothing," says a local driver waiting to renew his driving license. "All the testers are Palestinian, our own men. Therefore, all the hustlers will go on with their business. For 100 shekels they will make your car pass its annual test, even if you don't own a car. Just like in your bureau, in Holon."

Until the previous closure, Nabil worked in Israel as "a professional meat griller." He had no permit to enter Israel because of trouble with the income tax authorities. He used to own a sewing workshop in Gaza. The income tax authorities asked him to pay 60,000 shekels, but they failed to reach an agreement.

He managed. He registered the property in his mother's name, and the owner of the grilled meat joint snuck him into Israel without a magnetic card. After the closure this became more dangerous. So, he bought himself an old Peugeot and went into partnership with another guy in a taxi company. The current media interest in Gaza earns him a good living, and his business is flourishing. There are local Gazans who would rather hire a taxi than drag all the way to Palestine Square.

He dreams that once the Israeli authorities get out perhaps he will finally be allowed to install a radio in his taxi, just like in Israel. So far this has been forbidden for security reasons. Your income tax authorities will tear you to pieces, I say to him. Nabil is not worried. He is confident they will reach an agreement. I am even prepared to pay 5,000 shekels and close the case, he says. Last Tuesday he was worried about what would happen the next day if Israel Electric Corporation made good on its threat to cut off power due to Gaza's outstanding debt. Our neighborhood had no electricity for almost a month. No problem. Now that there is no curfew, we can unplug the refrigerator and buy fresh produce every day. The problem is with the television. We cannot go through the day without the news. He will apparently use the battery in his car.

A Bedouin family in Rimal is busy building a fence around their house. They ran away from Beersheba in 1948. Some of their relatives still live in Tel Sheva'. In Rimal they are a clan of several dozen. Now they are worried. Land in Rimal is expensive, and the Palestinian authorities may now demand they evacuate the area because they built on "state land." The best is to hoard weapons and be ready for what lies in store.

"We are from Bet Dagan. My grandfather had a large orange orchard there, which still exists. When I was 12, our entire family in Gaza went on a trip to Israel. We also went to my grandfather's orchard in Bet Dagan. To this day, my mother talks about that orchard. When they escaped to Gaza in 1948 they had a lot of money. My mother told my father: Let's buy a plot of land here, let's build a home. But my father told her: What for? We will be back in Bet Dagan in a week.

"I worked in a grilled meat joint in Holon. Every summer I would go to the orchard in Bet Dagan, steal a few oranges, take them to my mother in Gaza, and tell her: These are from grandpa's orchard."

I ask him: "So what, do you dream of going back to Bet Dagan?"

He replies: "My mother does. I no longer do, there is no chance. But we have at home Turkish papers of our deed on the orchard. Now I take very good care of them. In another three years they will start talking about the right of return. Perhaps they will talk with us about compensation."

Within a few days—they have been talking about "a few days" for a long time now—'Arafat must present the list of the 24 members of the autonomy council. These will make up the government of Gaza and Jericho, and if it works out, they will also get powers over the rest of the West Bank. Then, according to plans, there will be elections. The elections were scheduled to be held in July, when the talk was that Israel would hand over Gaza in December. December went by, so will July, and nobody believes elections will be held before December '94, and 'Arafat has not yet finished compiling the list.

"That's how 'Arafat works," a local political activist says. "You are only now getting to know him. But we know that 'Arafat will issue the list at the 11th hour, and even that will not be the final list. He has one list in his left pocket and another in his right pocket; one in his attache case, another in the drawer, three others in the closet, and 200 men are walking around the territories, each one of them with a list 'Arafat sent him by fax, and all the lists are hot air."

Ilyas Frayj from Bethlehem agreed to be included in the list. So did Dr. Zakariya al-Agha from Gaza. 'Arafat wants them in because he is sure of their allegiance. Dr. Furayh Abu-Middayn also acceded. He is more acceptable to the locals. "In the end we will give him the same job like that woman you have, the one with the teased hairdo, Miryam Ben-Porat."

"We will take a look at the list and decide accordingly," journalist Tawfiq Abu-Husa, a Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip says. "If it looks good to us, we will work with them. If not, we will tell 'Arafat: With all due respect, you are the president, you compile the lists, but tell us one thing: When will the elections be held?"

In the meantime, local leaders resort to tactics. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi is out of the picture. Sa'ib 'Urayqat decided now, of all times, to go to London to collect material about a future election. 'Arafat should get the hint. Faysal al-Husayni protests. People in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are busy building the infrastructure for political parties. Fatah is becoming a party. PFLP [Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine] and DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] activists are launching propaganda campaigns criticizing the agreement. Everything is politics.

Fatah men take the newly-arrived generals to visit the refugee camps. "They are completely detached from the reality in the field," one activist says, "and it is very important that they know what the people think so that we do not reach a situation where they, our own police, are perceived as foreign rulers, just as the Israelis. General Ziyad al-Atrash, the former commander of the Palestinian force in Algiers, is already visiting the camps, talking to people, and feeling great among them. There are others who have not yet managed to make contact. They will have a problem."

In the midst of all this, some people are making their electoral calculations. Some 7,000 Palestinian policemen, along with their families, will be arriving from the Arab countries. A cautious estimate puts their total number at 50,000. According to another cautious estimate, about half of them are eligible voters. This is significant.

People in Nabulus, Ramallah, and Janin are closely watching what is and what will be happening in Gaza. They are the next in line. Apparently, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] also understands that. The whole way from Petah Tiqva to Nabulus I did not see even one IDF patrol on the road. Author David Grossman's book "The Yellow Wind" has turned into the "yellow line." A yellow line crosses the length of Nabulus so that a settler from Elon More should not, God forbid, make a wrong turn in the road. I did not see even one car with yellow license plates [Israeli-owned] on the road. Driving through Nabulus' main street, people looked at my Israeli vehicle with astonishment. Who is that nut?

"What troubles me," a Gush Emunim settler told me, "is that what Rabin said about the IDF being primarily committed to protect the inhabitants within the Green Line is slowly sinking in. The IDF sees to Ethiopians who come from Gundar, and to us it doesn't? Just like everybody else, I am sure that terror attacks here will now increase. So, to cover his ass the chief of staff says he expects this. But what about practical measures? I want the IDF to obligate us to drive in convoys escorted by security guards to ensure our safety."

"But then you will say that the IDF restricts your movements," I tell him. "Whoever wants to say that, let him. However, this is what the IDF must do; it must understand that it is also responsible for our security."

Jericho is said to have been one of the calmest spots during the intifadah. Anybody driving through Jericho understands why: water, greenery, the climate. Those who own land, deal with the land and not with firebombs.

Hardly any incident was registered in 'Ayn al-Bayda', halfway between Tubas and Nabulus, during the intifadah. It is a beautiful spot. Streams flow by the road, there is a lot of greenery, and a developed industry of carpets made of the abundant reeds growing in the area.

Plastic chairs can be seen on every roof; a sign that people sit in the terrace in the evenings, breathing fresh air, and relaxing. Usually, in such places there are not many PLO flags. In local joints, 'Arafat's picture hangs next to the popular poster of the crying child. "Allah willing," says Ahmad Tubassi, "soon we will also have autonomy." What do you mean by soon? He replies: Elections, a state, whatever.

He has never been and may never be in Gaza. He will soon go visit Jericho, and so probably will other people from Ramallah and Nabulus, "to see what a Palestinian state is. In the meantime, we have our home, our fields. If there is no state, we will also manage; we will go visit the state."

The Jericho bypass road is another story. A narrow and bumpy road which prolongs the way to Jerusalem by another 15 minutes. You fantasize about lunch in some garden restaurant in the city, but have to make do with a hot dog and mustard in a roadside diner.

All traffic has been diverted to the Jericho bypass for a week now. There is no access to Jerusalem until the Palestinians are done taking over. On Monday, singer Ari'el Zilber will perform at the diner. Perhaps he will cheer up the residents of Ma'ale Efrayim and Patza'el. About 50 reservists were lying on the lawn outside the diner this week. They did not feel like going anywhere. "Come on guys," the officer exhorted them, "get going." "Come off it," the unit's clown answered, "it is a pity we did not leave them the gasoline too." Then I see a long and endless row of dozens of jeeps by the roadside. Carrying only the radio equipment, the soldiers are on their way to their base near Jerusalem. The Jericho exodus.

Passage to and from Jericho has been blocked for a week. Locals crowd the square waiting for the arrival of the police. The media and other foreigners wait outside. Assertive border policemen prohibit the entry. Journalists covering the territories threaten to appeal to the High Court of Justice. As far as the IDF is concerned, they can go on threatening. Who is allowed to enter Jericho? Locals, inhabitants of the territories, and tourists. If the tourists have an Israeli driver with the proper papers, they will be allowed in. Israeli Arabs will not. So, why does the car with yellow license plates ahead of me enter? These are Arabs from East Jerusalem, the border policeman tells me, they own houses in Jericho.

If people do not see this as a sign of what is yet to come—the question of Jerusalem, who will vote and who will be elected in the territories—then they know nothing about signs.

The American Colony Hotel is still the base of the foreign media in the territories. There I meet Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, a Palestinian representative to the talks with Israel. Abu-Ziyad does not want an official job, but he pulls strings and walks around with a cellular phone. He can dial 'Arafat whenever he wants, and get an answer.

He, just like me, does not believe the interim arrangement in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will last long. "The Gaza-Jericho agreement should be allowed to work for a short time, but the question of the settlements will come up immediately afterward. The settlements are connected with everything. Do they want us to take over health affairs in the West Bank? The question of the settlements contaminating the environment with their sewage water will immediately come up. Do they want us to take over education? There are places in the territories where the Army forces schools to open at 0700 so that there are no children on the roads when the settlers drive to work. If they want to talk with us about elections, according to the agreement the IDF must withdraw its troops from populated areas. How can it do that when it must also guard the access roads to the settlements? In my opinion, the whole process will be accelerated."

"Not everything is up to 'Arafat," a local Gazan activist tells me. "Our goal now is to show that what we are talking about here is a state. You may say whatever you want, but we will do what we understand. 'Arafat may also say whatever he wants, but he should bear in mind that in the last seven years we got used to rebelling. Nobody will force us to do something we do not agree to."

National Authority Member on Gaza Status, Other Issues

JN2105124294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 May 94

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian National Authority, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Salim Badawi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Middayn] The transfer of power has actually taken place. It is over now. The only pending issues are those issues related to daily life, such as travel permits, permits to enter Israel, bringing food from inside Israel, maintaining electrical current and telephone lines, and other issues. However, the administrative apparatus, which includes 6,400 employees, is running like a watch in the Gaza Strip. Military positions are under our control. Their reconstruction is under way to make them fit the coming stage. The problem is that we are starting at zero. It is true that we have an administrative apparatus, but so far the donor countries have not sent enough money to turn the wheel of daily economic life.

[Badawi] Yes, there must obstacles. How are you facing these obstacles? Can you specify some of them?

[Abu-Middayn] First of all, the major obstacle is now the arrival of university students in the West Bank at their places of study. This issue has not been resolved completely. The second problem is that for the last 27 years Israel made everything in the Gaza Strip, the electrical current, telephones, and even the milk cup, dependent on the Israeli economy, in a programmed and systematic manner. Therefore, we cannot get rid of this overnight. This is a very difficult problem to resolve. Based on this, I can give you an example about bread and how to get flour from inside Israel. The merchant first must get a permit. This needs time. So, once again, the permits are a major point. The agreements signed in Paris and elsewhere are not implemented on the ground.

[Badawi] So, how do you coordinate with the Israelis, particularly on daily life issues, as you said?

[Abu-Middayn] There is a liaison committee formed of five of our colleagues. They spend four hours a day on this. We believe that immediately after the 'Id al-Adha, there will be a daily plan of work with the Israeli side concerning our joint affairs. However, internally, we have full independence these days. We feel that decisions are being made. So, the heaviest burden is being shouldered by the National Authority members. They were quickly chosen for this post in the Gaza Strip. There are only three members, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, and Furayh Abu-Middayn. We were forced to make preliminary decisions on the ground even before official procedures such as oath-taking or the completion of the Palestinian National Authority. As you know, it includes 24 members, and not all have been named.

However, we are now compelled to take urgent measures and to make decisions on the ground on a daily and hourly basis.

[Badawi] As you said, there is intermingling between the administration of daily affairs and long-term planning concerning the self-rule areas.

[Abu-Middayn] This is true. We are trying to create new facts and mechanisms on the ground. We are waiting for financing, for the Marshall plan, so to say. There is the $1.2 billion the World Bank should give to us to begin immediate financing. There is also the EC and another $750 million. The truth is that we must build an infrastructure. This is the most important problem facing us on the ground. The roads, schools, hospitals, and even the armies brought from outside all need houses and other services.

[Badawi] What kind of infrastructures are now available to you in Gaza and Jericho?

[Abu-Middayn] We have only highly qualified cadres, but no money. This is the problem. The vehicle is lubricated, the driver is in it, and it is waiting to be filled with gas, if we can say that. We need to pump a huge amount of money. Approximately 60,000-70,000 jobs must be created. This is because Israel has closed 60,000 jobs inside Israel. There is a manpower problem in Israel. Unemployment has reached 60-65 percent. This is the most serious problem. Unemployment in the Gaza Strip has reached the zero point or the red line. I am sorry to have deviated from your question, but the truth is that the Arab and Israeli blockades have integrated against us in the Gaza Strip. You know that the Gaza Strip is like an island in the sea. It is surrounded by Israel and the sea.

[Badawi] Can we say that your projects are ready and the only thing missing is money?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes. I hope the donor countries will fulfill their obligations. We do not want to be another Yeltsin or another Russia with just more and more promises, especially since we are not asking for a favor, but this is the Middle East equation, namely, that without Palestine there will neither be economic or security stability.

[Badawi] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn: How are the people inside taking the new situation?

[Abu-Middayn] They are looking to the future with a mixture of hope and apprehension. They are glad to be rid of the khaki-clad occupation troops that ruled over them for 27 years and sent 220,000 of them to prison. This nightmare is over. However, the discussions of bread and butter issues will begin in a week or two. This is what the Palestinian people inside look to with fervent hope. We are up to the challenge. But the world has obligated us to this agreement, such as it is. [sentence as heard] However, this is not the Palestinian peace we are looking for. But we will create from this limited achievement something for the future. The international community must, however, remember that for over two and half years of negotiations it has pressed the Palestinians [words indistinct] and (?then we will see what happens later). Even the Europeans [word indistinct], even those who have made the nuclear option available to Israel took this position. The Palestinians are, therefore, rightly apprehensive about the future and that the international bodies will not deliver on the promises they have made to the Palestinian people over the past few years.

[Badawi] As you know, in addition to the day-to-day problems you are facing, there is the fundamental issue of the settlers. This week some of them went with their weapons to pray in Jericho. Do the Palestinian police have a contingency plan to contain and handle any future friction; are they armed with the necessary powers to do that?

[Abu-Middayn] Let me put it this way. Land mines have been left behind—three settlements in the Gaza Strip and the synagogue in Jericho. These are flashpoints that bring to mind what happened in Hebron. Yesterday, a settler close to Netzarim was fired on. Today, they carried out provocations on the street that goes past this settlement. We have pointed this out to the Israelis and tried to convince them that, if only for their own safety, these three settlements must be dismantled. Some 550 soldiers are posted to provide protection for 150 settlers. The settlement problem in the Gaza Strip... [pauses], I want to break the glad news to you that 50 to 60 percent of the settlers are bracing to leave the strip. I have been reliably informed that they are putting in claims for compensation in return for moving behind the green line. The security settlements you are asking about are problematic, whether we are talking about the Jericho synagogue or the three Gaza settlements. These are flashpoints. The settlers travel on Arab roads in the Gaza Strip under Army escort. But this is a daily friction that I fear may erupt into a bloody incident. The Israeli Government must, therefore, consider the removal of these three outposts. We may be able to work out a solution in the future.

[Badawi, interrupting] In the meantime...

[Abu-Middayn] But the settlement activity is the real obstacle.

[Badawi] In the meantime, how will you handle the potential for friction?

[Abu-Middayn] The Palestinian police have plans for such an eventuality. None of the settlers may leave their settlement without obtaining a prior permit. But, if an armed settler attacked a Palestinian, no one must expect him to be treated with patience. I am not issuing threats, but bullets will be returned in kind.

[Badawi] But this situation will cause problems for you with the Palestinians themselves, especially seeing that three Palestinian factions active inside the occupied land are refusing to surrender their weapons. How do you acquiesce to settlers carrying arms and deny this right to the Palestinians?

[Abu-Middayn] Last week, those who wagered on a Palestinian bloodbath or a fratricidal conflict were disabused of their illusions. Brothers in the opposition factions were out on the streets firing in the air in jubilation alongside the Palestinian army. Everyone saw this on television screens. The problem of Palestinian fighting Palestinian does not exist.

[Badawi] Yes, but three Palestinian organizations declared from Damascus that they refuse to hand over their weapons in the occupied territories.

[Abu-Middayn] Sir, they have not been asked to hand over their weapons. The handover of weapons has not been asked for. What is wanted is to rationalize weapons because control over weapons was lost in a certain phase.

There are 20,000 weapons in Gaza. Perhaps, 20 percent or less of these weapons are in the hands of organizations and 80 percent of them are in the hands of ordinary citizens. I am concerned with the loose weapons present in the hands of ordinary citizens; these weapons have reached some criminal cells. These are the weapons that should be controlled. If anyone wants a weapon to protect himself or for other reasons, we can reach agreement and there can be a plan for licensing weapons or something similar in this regard. We, however, do not seek to arm the Palestinian people, the arms are a support for the Palestinians. These weapons [word indistinct] are a support for the Palestinian army's weapons, and they are not against this army.

[Badawi] There are other possibilities that cannot be subtracted from the practical theories, such as what happened in Hebron this week. To what extent would this be reflected on the situation in the self-rule areas?

[Abu-Middayn] I previously said so, and the Israeli side complained about a statement I made [words indistinct]. If what happened in Hebron took place at a time when we had 6,000-7,000 soldiers in Gaza, the real massacre would have occurred in Gaza and not in Hebron. This is because the reply would have been harsh and violent because the Israeli Army is very strong. However, no one can [words indistinct].

If a Gazan takes to the street, would we open fire on him? Definitely not. Thus, the Israelis, and not the Palestinian side, should take this into account. Knowing that 30 people were massacred at a mosque on a Friday in the month of Ramadan, we cannot say that we in Gaza would not make a violent reply. These issues are submitted to the Israeli side, which should study them because peace is more important than 400 extremists. I do not like to use the word extremist because, to me, each settler is an extremist. Thus, there are 120,000 extremists in the West Bank and Gaza; they are the settlers. Hence, the Israeli Government should have its own calculations. We did not carry out any action whatsoever. However, in case of self-defense and in order to defend dignity, there could be a bloodbath.

[Badawi] It can thus be said that construction work has begun, though it may be stumbling due to lack of the necessary funds. On the political level, however, do you have any idea about when the whole team of the National Authority Council will be joining you, or...?

[Abu-Middayn, interrupting] Very soon. I believe that by Saturday, the first day of 'Id al-Adha, President 'Arafat will have declared all the names. You know that the responsibility is heavy, and some brothers are reluctant to join the Palestinian National Authority. In other words, you know that there is fear of assuming responsibility at historic moments. This matter needs time to contemplate. I, however, believe there are dozens of people ready to accept this challenge.

[Badawi] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn: On the legal level, what laws and jurisdiction are you now implementing to resolve the differences you may face at times?

[Abu-Middayn] This is an important question. Palestinian law has existed since the British mandate. Egypt, during former President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's rule, kept this law until the time of Israeli occupation. The Gaza Strip's situation remained as a fully independent legal issue which used to bear the name of Palestine and there was a Palestinian constitution. The judicial system exists, and there are three levels of jurisdiction. The legal body exists but it was paralyzed in the past seven years after the policemen resigned.

Immediately following 'Id al-Adha, we will start work in the judicial field. The courts are ready but there are also criminal cases like thefts, murders, and others. Prisons will probably be ready within 48 hours to receive of course, smugglers, thieves, and others. We had hoped that we would have prisons. To cut things short, I would like to tell you that the first case is a surprising case. The first person we apprehended was a man who had stolen things from the Palestinian military administration. These things were the keys to Gaza prison. That's why we released him without any thought because stealing the prison keys had its meanings and historical dimensions after this long time. It will be the first time in our history that a Palestinian will sit in this place. We hope that we will be up to the responsibility. There must be a judicial system that is not factional, and that is independent, honest, and qualified. This is an essential equation and this is the sole guarantee. The military forces should be headed by a sound and independent legal body. The first thing we should do is to respect the law.

[Badawi] So far, how do you assess the response of the citizens to the police, the Palestinian force?

[Abu-Middayn] Let me tell you something. Murders, and the car thefts have decreased. Look at the cooperation on the streets. People from all walks of life visit police stations, and inform about violations. The man on the street in the Gaza Strip now even tries to avoid traffic violations. One week ago, things were different. One has started to feel that the streets are under control. There is a solid relationship between the Palestinian police and the people. A murder case took place two days ago and the investigation concerning it is proceeding normally and routinely. There is an understanding to activate the role of the law so that we may reach the next stage. How can we hold elections and exercise democracy without law and the prevalence of the law?

[Badawi] With respect to elections now, the talk is that they will be held in October, next fall.

[Abu-Middayn] Next fall because first of all the law should prevail. Otherwise, why hold elections? First, the issue of the elections should be seriously studied. We are doing our best in this respect. But, elections for a legislative council are not permitted at this stage. But municipal elections, rural council elections will, probably, be the first elections with which we will start. Then we will move to a higher stage. I believe that the Palestinian people are dutybound to set an example among these many Arab regimes which are fighting, particularly what we witness in Yemen. We are pained to see this taking place.

[Badawi] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, thank you.

Fatah Leader in Gaza Strip: No Plan To Disarm Groups Yet

TA2005111494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] One of the leaders of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, Furayh Abu-Middayn, said that there are no plans at this stage to disarm armed groups such as the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. Speaking to reporter Mark Weiss this morning, Abu-Middayn said the main problem is that money and equipment promised to the Palestinian police force has still not arrived.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Middayn] Well, we are controlling very good, I am sure, but you know, communications and investors, all these facilities which the donors promised to send us—particularly the Americans—we did not receive it until now. This is a problem for security because we have no equipment, no sophisticated equipment for communications. We need cars, we need everything. There are a lot of promises, but nobody sends anything. This is the real problem for the Palestinians, but we are ready, our soldiers are there, our policemen are there, and everything is running like a watch.

[Weiss] When do you think the Palestinian police will be able to stop attacks against Israeli soldiers?

[Abu-Middayn] Look, as security will be within one week, it will be 100 percent perfect, but as you know, the real challenge for the Palestinians is they have not got any money even for next week. [sentence as heard] This is the real problem.

[Weiss] When do you expect the Palestinian police to move to disarm groups such as 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam?

[Abu-Middayn] You should ask Mr. 'Arafat or the military commanders. I have no answer for this question.

[Weiss] So far, there are no plans to move against these groups?

[Abu-Middayn] No, until now we have no plans. [end recording]

Fatah Leader on Plans for Palestinian Autonomy

PM2405100394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 May 94 p 5

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi: "Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestinian Authority Council To Be Completed After 'Id al-Adha; Differences Between 'Arafat and Qaddumi Regarding the Return"]

[Text] Tunis—Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan and Fatah Central Committee member, has stated that formation of the Palestinian Authority Council for Gaza and Jericho will be completed after the blessed 'Id al-Adha and will hold its first meeting in Cairo and subsequent meetings inside the occupied territory.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Tunis, 'Abd-al-Rahim said that Fatah's Revolutionary Council approved the autonomy agreement signed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Wednesday 4 May in Cairo.

He added that the Council unanimously decided to return to Gaza and Jericho and to form committees to pass instructions and duties to the cadres to enter the homeland as soon as possible in accordance with a preconceived plan.

'Abd-al-Rahim denied divisions and differences of opinion between members of the Revolutionary Council which, he said, is a framework within which views and ideas interact, issues are discussed, and decisions are made on the basis of agreement and reconciliation.

He pointed out that there were two trends in the Council: One led by Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the Political Department, who wants the return to be gradual at all levels from the command to the lowest organization level. The other trend, led by President Yasir 'Arafat, believes that the entry of Fatah and PLO cadres into Gaza and Jericho should be done in full strength and weight because the situation is ripe for that and because the process of building the autonomy authority in Gaza and Jericho requires the pooling of all efforts and resources to ensure success of that experiment and, therefore, pave the way for PLO success in future steps aimed at setting up an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, who is also a member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council, confirmed that all the Council's members have expressed support for the decision to return to Gaza and Jericho in accordance with a specific plan and instructions for all cadres, and that 10 special committees have started their task of placing the cadres in their appropriate place within the national authority. These committees represent all the political, economic, security, educational, and other sectors under national authority powers.

The Fatah Central Committee member said that all Palestinian qualified patriots would participate in the process of building the Palestinian entity, and that the process would not be confined to qualified people from the factions because "the Palestinian authority belongs to all the Palestinian people and not just one group."

'Abd-al-Rahim said that he might be assigned the duties of the presidency's general secretariat.

Jericho Mayor Discusses Situation, 'Arafat's Return

NC2205065594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 May 94

[Telephone interview with Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Khalaf, Dr. Nabil Sha'th visited Gaza and Jericho in the first such visit by a Palestinian official to Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian self-rule areas. Can you tell us what happened during the meetings he held and the nature of his visit?

[Khalaf] Dr. Nabil Sha'th is one of the leaders who have worked and made great efforts to establish peace in the region. It is also very natural for him to be with us on two occasions: The first occasion is the entry of the Palestinian police and the second occasion is the 'Id al-Adha. Of course, his being with us leaves a very good impression and gives a feeling of security. He is an official of the PLO, under the leadership of Chairman 'Arafat. This leaves a very good impression with the forces and citizens and provides them with a great sense of security that a top-ranking Palestinian official, Mr. Nabil Sha'th, is visiting the area.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel doubts the ability of the Palestinian police to perform their security duties in the Palestinian territories. What can we say about the capabilities of the Palestinian police or the policeman?

[Khalaf] There is no doubt that every good citizen who likes peace and loves his country will consider himself a policeman and keep the peace and security. Naturally, the citizens of the city joined the policemen, and everyone is enjoying the fact that they are abiding by the law and applying it in order to provide peace of mind for every citizen.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Khalaf, Palestinian president 'Arafat will enter the Palestinian territories at the beginning of next month. What kind of reception he will be given by the Palestinian people?

[Khalaf] There is no doubt that there are many preparations under way to receive the Palestinian president on the appropriate date, which he himself will determine. The city is patiently awaiting his arrival. His return to the city and entry to the region will be a historic day. The cities of Gaza and Jericho are the first experiments for the Palestinian people in establishing peace. Praise be to God that autonomy has started in Gaza and Jericho. We welcome the president to his land and city and among his people.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Khalaf, there are reports that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will meet in Jericho. What can you tell us about this meeting, and when will it will be held?

[Khalaf] The date will be fixed by the president and the brothers in the PNC. We hope it will be a historic date in Jericho. It will be a historic starting point for the Palestinian people and we welcome the PNC members here.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Jamil Sabri Khalaf, Jericho mayor, we thank you very much for this telephone interview and wish you a happy 'Id al-Adha. We also wish the Palestinian people health and prosperity.

[Khalaf] Many happy returns to you, the Islamic and Arab nations, wherever you may be.

'Arafat Appoints Fatah Member as Commander of Policewomen

NC2305183194 London MBC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Mrs. Fatimah Barnawi, a most veteran member of Fatah, as commander of the Palestinian policewomen force, which will be established soon. He also asked her to supervise the formation of the Palestinian policewomen force.

Israel had sentenced Barnawi to 42 years in prison, and then had her deported in 1977 after serving 10 years of her sentence.

Intelligence Chief Saqr Returns to Gaza After 27 Years

NC2205101294 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 22 May 94

[By Sakher Abou Eloun]

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 22 (AFP)—The new Palestinian intelligence chief for Gaza and Jericho emerged Sunday from 27 years in the shadows, but said he was "too tired" to talk and scrapped a welcome home party.

Brigadier-General Misbah Hanafi Rushdi Saqr returned to his wife who believed he was dead after he went missing during the 1967 Middle East war.

An AFP correspondent spotted the moustachioed general on Sunday walking to a Gaza City cemetery where his mother and father were buried.

But the intelligence chief for the autonomous areas, who looked drawn and pale in his olive-green uniform of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), said: "I'm too tired to talk."

His family said they learned on Saturday that he would be coming home and had prepared a welcoming party with other relatives.

But the general maintained his awesome reputation for discretion after, according to Palestinian police officers, living half his life clandestinely in Israel under a false name.

He apologized saying he was exhausted and asked for the celebrations to be cancelled. Journalists were told to leave the family home.

A brief announcement from PLO headquarters in Tunis last week that Saqr was to head the intelligence service stunned even those closest to the man, who all believed him dead.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat "announced to us, a few days ago, that he would be the next chief of the intelligence services," an officer in the Palestinian police force told AFP.

Born in Gaza in 1943, Saqr graduated as an officer from the Cairo military academy in the late 1950s. He was PLA commander for the Khan Yunus area of Gaza in 1967, when he disappeared without a trace.

A nephew, taxi-driver Bashir Saqr, said the head of the Palestinian police force had contacted the family directly.

"General Nasr Yusuf sent two of his men to my house ... and asked my mother: 'Where's your brother Misbah?' The poor woman replied she had no idea," the nephew said.

"Then I met a deputy to the general who asked me what I knew of my uncle Misbah, and I replied that he was dead.

"He replied: 'No. Your uncle is alive and is living somewhere nearby. If he turns up or calls, tell him that president 'Arafat wants to speak to him or that he should come to our offices.'"

Some people believed General Saqr had drowned swimming the Jordan River from the West Bank to Jordan.

But his brother Hamis said he had never really believed Misbah was dead. "I didn't wear black in mourning. I asked the International Committee of the Red Cross but they never found him in Israeli prisons."

He also investigated in Amman and Beirut as well as with the PLO, who said the general had died a martyr for the Palestinian cause.

"When I found out he was still alive, I burst into tears," said the brother, a merchant in Gaza City.

Even the general's wife, Nismat Barzak, who runs a school, had no contact with him throughout the Israeli occupation, according to the family.

Their two grown-up sons, who work abroad in Arab countries, also never saw their father and "only know his face from old photographs," said Hamis.

A large crowd gathered at the family home in Gaza's up-market Rimal neighbourhood, but they were disappointed as Saqr did not appear.

He was seen sitting quietly at the back of the house which was protected by a large number of armed bodyguards.

Gun-wielding Palestinian guerrillas of the Hawks, armed wing of the mainstream PLO movement Fatah, were also kept away.

"I do not have authority to talk to anyone," Saqr told AFP.

Palestinian Police Arrest 2 Israeli Settlers in Jericho

TA2405085294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Two Israeli citizens were arrested by Palestinian policemen in Jericho and their personal weapons were confiscated. The two Israelis were released a short while ago. The men are residents of the Na'ama settlement, who apparently went to Jericho to shop.

The incident was reported to our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz today by residents of the Jordan Rift Valley. One of the men who was arrested is Arye Shahar, the security officer at Na'ama. Shahar managed to use his walkie-talkie to report that he and his friend had been detained and taken to the Palestinian police station in Jericho. Na'ama residents expressed great fury at what they called a flagrant violation of the Cairo agreement. The circumstances leading to the arrest of the two Israelis remain unclear, as does the reason for their release.

Police Chief: Orders Misunderstood

TA2405093294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Palestinian policemen arrested two settlers from Na'ama in Jericho and confiscated their handguns. Sa'adi Naji, the commander of the Jericho Police, apologized for the incident and explained that his men had acted wrongly because they had not understood their orders. The two settlers and their weapons were transferred to the regional coordination office. This was reported by our correspondents Gil Litman and Moti Amir.

Terms of Cairo Accord To Be Translated for Security Forces

TA2305044694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The Cairo agreement on the implementation of self- government in Gaza and Jericho will be translated into Arabic in order to make even the junior Palestinian officers in Gaza and Jericho familiar with it. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that it has emerged that the Palestinian leaders have failed to explicate the written details of the agreement to the Palestinian population and security forces. A Palestinian source told our correspondent that the Palestinian leaders often prefer to explain events on the ground in their own way and contrary to the agreement, perhaps in order to win the Palestinian public's support.

Police Fire at Tires of Israeli Vehicle in Northern Gaza

TA2305082594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Palestinian policemen manning a roadblock in the northern part of the Gaza Strip fired shots at the tires of an Israeli vehicle transporting Arab workers from Nisanit to the Erez checkpoint. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

The Israeli contractor who drove the car told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that he did not stop at the Palestinian roadblock because he wanted to be checked only at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock. He claims that the soldiers manning the IDF roadblock ordered him to return to the Palestinian roadblock for inspection. The fire was directed at his car as he was driving back toward that roadblock.

Algeria

Zeroual Urges Yemeni President To End Fighting

LD2305124094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] State President Liamine Zeroual today held a telephone conversation with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. On this occasion President Liamine Zeroual renewed his call in the name of Algeria and on behalf of the Maghreb states for a cease-fire between the children of Yemen and for the sake of maintaining unity of that sisterly country.

Senior Officials Dismissed After Prison Breakout Inquiry

LD2305203894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpt] An investigation has taken place into a breakout from Tazoult prison on 10 March, the circumstances in which the incident occurred, and the share of responsibility for the incident of public officials. Following the investigation, the governor of Batna Province, the head of security of Batna Province, the head of security of Tazoult district, the director of re-education affairs at the Ministry of Justice, and the Tazoult police chief were dismissed today.

The first results of the investigation revealed that the terrorists had benefited from the assistance of two persons working at the police station. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Approves Supplemental Budget Act

LD2305211394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpts] We begin with a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the presidential offices today. Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, chaired the meeting. In accordance with the agenda, at the beginning of its proceedings the council listened to a report by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi on all the activities of his government since it was appointed.

In light of the report presented by the minister delegate for the budget, the Council of Ministers then studied and approved the Supplementary Budget Act 1994. The Supplementary Budget Act aims to implement austerity measures in public expenditure in order to reduce the total deficit in the state's finances; to provide additional financial resources to restructure and clean up public enterprises; to restructure banks; to limit the effects of the structural reform program on deprived social groups; to establish new tax measures aimed at promoting investment in conformity with and in transition to a market economy, on one hand, and at achieving economic revival so that national development can take off again, on the other. [passage omitted]

In his contribution to the Council of Ministers' discussion, the head of state insisted on the need to formulate a program for social protection, as well as undertaking work aimed at achieving economic effectiveness, because, as he explained, we must succeed not only on the economic level but also on the social level. [passage omitted]

In reviewing Algeria's foreign activities in the economic field, the head of state gave directives on the setting up of a joint ministerial committee to be headed by the prime minister. This committee will follow up the implementation of the agreement signed with the IMF. [passage omitted]

Dembri Interviewed on Dialogue, Relations With France

LD2005171894 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 20 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by correspondent Noureddine Bouziane; place and date not given; from the "Afrique Midi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Dembri] The political dialogue in Algeria is progressing steadily and as expected. That is, all the political and social forces of the country have been consulted and have been associated with this effort aimed at setting up transitional institutions to reach a national consensus on the resumption of the electoral process of course, and to build the new Algerian society. I do not think it is appropriate to speak of government versus opposition. I think this concept is completely false. There is a state and a government that are trying to organize, to the best of their ability, the transitional period, and a political elite that has its own interpretations, something that is normal in a democratic regime. The aim is to achieve this consensus around the key points included in the transitional platform, which should guarantee the continuity of the Algerian state, the continuity of the republican order, the defense of individual rights and freedom, as well as respect for the elements constituting our national character and the rejection of violence as a means of obtaining power and keeping it.

The democratic process has never been interrupted in Algeria. This is in fact why we can still see parties pursuing their activities freely. The press is also free. We should not forget that not long ago in Europe, these problems of transition were experienced by at least two countries. In Spain, the Moncloa Pact had to be signed to manage the transition toward a multiparty system and the emergence of a republican state. In Portugal, it took no fewer than four transitional governments, if I remember correctly, to form a constitutional government. The issue here is the transition from a system of partisan democracy to a democratic multyparty system.

[Bouziane] Minister, how do you assess the relationship between Algeria and France?

[Dembri] Good on the whole. We are pleased at this moment to see that there is a great understanding of the Algerian situation on the part of French political circles. Some worst-case scenarios are entertained by some editorials of the French press, but on the whole, it is obvious that putting the problems of Algeria within the Mediterranean framework at the moment is, beyond the confines of any relationship, good for joint development. This joint development will force us to look at the problems of the future in terms of solutions that we should find together to everything that concerns the economy and movement of persons and property, etc.

[Bouziane] At the diplomatic level, Minister, we have recently noticed Algerian diplomatic activity particularly concerning Mali, with the signing of the National Pact, and Niger. What is the future of a settlement of the Tuareg problem in these two countries?

[Dembri] Listen, we are doing what a neighboring country should do: aspiring to build a prosperous community. At the two levels of cooperation and security, we have built a Sahelian-Saharan community, which we hope to see integrated and homogenous.

[Bouziane] Does this mean that Algeria will soon organize direct negotiations between the Niger Government and the Niger Tuaregs?

[Dembri] This does not matter. There are three mediators in this conflict. There is the Burkinabe mediator, the French mediator, and the Algerian mediator. The meetings—and a few of these will be held—should take place on a rotational basis in the different countries involved. A meeting has already been held in Ouagadougou. Our mediators recently met the two parties to these negotiations. A meeting is secheduled to take place in Paris, I suppose, on 15 June, and we will try of course to contribute positively, as always, because we have to guarantee peace, security, and development in all this Sahelian-Saharan region.

Sifi Explains Government's Views on Dialogue

AU1705171594 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 17 May 94 p 8

[Interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi by Hans-Helmut Kohl in Algiers; date not given: "Dialogue With All Those Who Renounce the Use of Force"]

[Text] The new Algerian Government is trying to get the political and economic crisis in the country under control with two recipes: On the one hand, dialogue should be sought "with all those who renounce the use of force." On the other hand, the social reason behind the conflict should be tackled with a new effort. In Algiers, FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU journalist Hans-Helmut Kohl conducted the following interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who has been in office since 11 April.

[Kohl] People in Europe are following the developments in Algeria with great concern—also as far as safety is concerned. Foreigners are being killed, threatened, and are leaving the country. What do you want to do and what can you do about this?

[Sifi] This government is observing two guidelines. First, we have to eliminate violence. These acts of violence must stop, and we are making great efforts for this. I think that the population and objective observers have already noticed a significant improvement. The struggle to eliminate violence will continue. On the other hand, there are political, economic, and social reasons for this evil in our society.

The intensive struggle against violence goes hand in hand with a policy that consists of addressing all parties and all sections and groups of the population. Not everything that the population feels is expressed by the parties. There are social groups such as the trade unions, employers, and cultural associations that are of significance by themselves. All these people have been invited to a dialogue so that we can find out together how we can return to stability. As far as the economy is concerned, we have revised a program for improving the infrastructure, even though this is only a small part of what is necessary.

[Kohl] Let us stay with politics. You have invited everybody to participate in the dialogue. What will you do if your invitation is not accepted and how far are you ready to take this dialogue? Does it also include the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front?

[Sifi] We should understand one thing: The FIS has been dissolved by a Supreme Court ruling in accordance with the laws of this country. Now there are movements that support the social model that was also pursued by the FIS. They think that their idea is the best. These people may come, but all others who renounce violence may come, too.

[Kohl] Are there any contacts between the government or the state president and the arrested FIS leaders Madani and Benhadj?

[Sifi] The state president has made mediating efforts. Everything has taken place on the basis of the platform that was worked out in the High State Council with the participation of many people. There were others who were not included. The conference emphasized that the path was open for everybody else, too. It laid down the framework and the objective. The framework includes all those who renounce violence and respect the Constitution. Our objective is to achieve economic and political stability as a precondition for elections. We want to achieve this as quickly as possible. The platform agreed on a period of three years. Should stability be achieved before that, nothing will prevent us from holding the elections earlier.

[Kohl] Will these elections then no longer be held under the majority voting system but under the proportional representation system, because the majority voting system benefited the FIS?

[Sifi] That is the problem. The direction that we are going will depend on the dialogue. The electoral law is part of it.

[Kohl] Are you going to give a precise date for the elections?

[Sifi] Perhaps not everybody is content. We will see who will not come. The train will go on. We have to give those who have not yet boarded the train time to reflect. For this purpose we have established the National Transition Council (CNT), which will constitute itself soon. Recently we instituted the National Economic and Social Council (CNES). All the issues can be discussed in the CNES and the CNT.

[Kohl] Are you playing to stay in power for awhile?

[Sifi] I will go even further. What other solution can you offer, what alternative, what is to be done? If you know something better, why not, even though in my opinion there is nothing better way than to assemble the people so that we do not lose even more time.

[Kohl] Still, there are groups who will not participate.

[Sifi] Then things will be done without them. These organizations are important, but people are more important. The people want peace.

[Kohl] You have offered dialogue with a time limit?

[Sifi] Of course there are limits.

[Kohl] The accusation has been voiced in Algeria, for example in the newspapers, that Germany was supporting fundamentalists, who were not only granted asylum but are even allowed to demand murders. How do you see the position of the German authorities?

[Sifi] Germany is a sovereign country. It has the right to do whatever it wants. People in Germany are worried about what is going on in Algeria. We would like to give the German authorities and the German public the possibility to have direct access to our country so that they do not have to rely on information provided by international media or all kinds of experts on Algeria. I think that we can trust that the Germans will finally find out the truth about our country. Germany and Algeria have shared interests. Personally, I am convinced that the Germans will change their opinion not only when they become more open toward the Algerian Government but when they come here to see for themselves. Still, I have the impression that German public opinion does not yet have a true assessment of the situation here. I can feel that in your questions, too. Dialogue, particularly in the way it is understood in Germany, is not dialogue between the government, on the one hand, and a party, on the other.

[Kohl] Yet, this is what it is seen as—as dialogue between the government and the FIS.

[Sifi] No. The government does not back one party or turn against another. We do not have any preferences.

[Kohl] In your view do political statements in Germany disturb this process?

[Sifi] Exactly. They have prevented Algeria overcoming the crisis.

[Kohl] So do you think that Germany should behave differently?

[Sifi] Yes, absolutely. If the German public were better informed of the true intentions of the Algerian Government, they would be convinced of our path and would be more accommodating.

[Kohl] Let us now turn to the economy: Does your government accept the crucial term privatization? What industries will be privatized, when and under what conditions?

[Sifi] Here, as in politics, your approach seems to biased. You never see the whole but only one aspect, which can be a conclusion but sometimes also the driving force for a certain development. [sentence as published] Privatization as a simple term, a slogan, is of no value for us. What we are interested in is the efficiency of our economy. If the state has to withdraw from one sphere or another—I prefer this formulation—why not? In Germany there are also public employers. Why do you not privatize these?

[Kohl] We are just about to privatize our airline.

[Sifi] Very well. Ask the British, and they will tell you that the Germans are not privatizing enough, and they will add that the French are lagging even further behind. Everything is relative. I am not telling the Germans, French, and British anything. They all have their national economies, and everybody is trying to be as efficient as possible. When we became independent we had nothing—nothing in the private or public sector. So, something had to be done, and since there was no private economy, the state had to take things into its hands. This was necessary. It turned out that the state was unable to handle everything. So autonomy has to be created in ever more sectors. We have started, and we will continue.

[Kohl] Give me an example.

[Sifi] Well, take the tourist industry. The state is not going to invest in any new developments. We are not doing anything at all in this sector any more. And what we must and will do is to open up to private national and foreign capital. Where we need technological partnership we are ready to open up. I am thinking of cement plants, which need foreign partners.

[Kohl] What about the petrochemical industry?

[Sifi] Do not rush us. We have not analyzed it in detail. It is not enough to proclaim the slogan and let nothing follow. We must be able to evaluate all the possibilities.

We must not begin with the simplest things but with what is possible. Time will come. Now we are not thinking of privatizing the petrochemical industry, which does not mean that we will not do so in 10, 15, or 100 years from now—I do not know. What I do know is that we are anxious to optimize our economic activities.

[Kohl] To attract foreign capital you have to guarantee profits.

[Sifi] That is obvious. We can attract foreign capital in all the sectors if there are shared interests. Yet, without assessing the possibilities I cannot say that I will simply do it in one or the other industry. That is not the appropriate thing for a head of government to do. There have to be vital Algerian interests for any opening up.

[Kohl] Your recent agreement with the IMF will make the problems even worse. Do you think that you will be able to explain this policy to your population? And do you have enough time for it?

[Sifi] So far, the people have lost confidence in the government because they were promised a lot. We have explained the consequences of the agreement, both the negative and the positive. We have drawn up a program to prevent the shock therapy that we can witness elsewhere. We will improve the social network and make sure that the distribution of and access to goods will improve. At the moment, there is a huge gap between the real and the official prices. If we increase the official prices by 50 percent and, at the same time, improve the distribution of and access to the goods, then we would still remain beneath the current real prices.

[Kohl] How will you solve the housing shortage?

[Sifi] At the moment we are short of 1.2 million apartments, based on the statistical assumption of seven people per apartment. If we wanted five people to share each apartment, we would need 2 million apartments. This is where we did a bad job in the past. Now we are trying hard to complete 600,000 unfinished apartments. This will change the concrete living conditions, which will become noticeable in all the cities. Moreover, we will permit all Algerians to buy a piece of land, which was impossible in the past. And the administrative bodies must change their way of working. They used to take decisions but there was nobody there to implement them.

[Kohl] As a result of the attacks is it difficult for you to keep people who work for the state because they are the targets of such attacks?

[Sifi] Quite a few have left, but most of them have stayed on. One thing is certain, namely that we can do a much better job with the same means.

[Kohl] Do you not interpret it as criticism that people describe you as a technocrat?

[Sifi] On the contrary, I am proud of it. I say it is better to be a good technocrat than a bad politician.

Finance Minister Assesses Talks in Washington

LD1405151794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The minister of finance's tour, which has taken him to a number of Western capitals, seems to have made some progress towards gaining more financial support for the country's plan for economic revival.

After Washington, Mr. Benbitour is expected to arrive in Tokyo later to meet with Japanese financial circles. Here are more details with Bachir Hedibek:

[Hedibek] Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour yesterday ended his tour which had taken him to Washington, after visiting Paris and Brussels. During his visit, the Algerian minister of finance met the U.S. deputy secretary of the treasury in charge of finance, the president of the world bank, and the IMF general secretary.

Mr. Benbitour affirmed from Washington that he had received Western financial circles' full support for the government's program for economic revival and that they were fully prepared to give all the necessary aid to secure the success of the program, particularly the flexibility of debt rescheduling and the release of new loans.

Concerning the debt rescheduling, Mr. Benbitour pointed out that the aim was that Algeria should receive a percentage of loans to build an acceptable level of money reserves in order to avoid a fresh request for debt rescheduling in the future. Algerian demands received great understanding and support from American financial circles, he added.

Mr. Benbitour pointed out that furthermore, he had dwellled upon the program of loans for supporting the Algerian institutions and the Algerian monetary and banking system, estimated at 175 million dollars from the World Bank and 150 million dollars for the Export-Import Bank of Japan, with the director of the World Bank.

The minister had guarantees that the abovementioned loans would be released as soon as possible and that a new plan with the World Bank would be drawn up.

His meeting with IMF director general Mr. Camdessus was an opportunity to deal with the development of the situation following the dispatch of Algeria's letter of intent to the Fund.

The Algerian file, including the program for economic revival will be the subject of a serious examination by the IMF board, which is due to meet on 27 May.

Also, the Paris Club will be holding a meeting later this month to examine the rescheduling of Algeria's foreign debts.

Always in Paris, the French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has also disclosed that Washington and Tokyo had agreed to reschedule Algeria's debts.

Comments on London Visit

LD1905090694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Within the framework of his visit to Paris, Brussels, and Washington which had the aim of explaining Algeria's economic and financial programs to officials in these states [as heard], Minister of Finance Ahmed Benbitour yesterday ended his talks in London with British officials after a two-day visit to Britain.

In a statement to the Algerian news agency after his visit to London, he said that he had found great understanding and an excellent appreciation of the economic and financial situation in Algeria among those he spoke to in Britain. Abdelhamid Boughra has the details.

[Boughra] Mr. Benbitour said that his visit to the British capital had had four aims. He stressed that he had gone to London to obtain support for the Algerian government's program when it is discussed by the IMF board of directors on 27 May. He also said that he had asked for Britain to support the Algerian case at the Paris Club within the framework of the rescheduling of Algeria's debts on 31 May and 1 June. Mr. Benbitour said that the third aim was to obtain British support in multilateral financial institutions, while the fourth was his discussions with British officials on ways and means of developing bilateral financial relations and trade exchanges.

His talks with British officials centered on the situation in Algeria and the challenges which getting out of the crisis pose for the region and Europe. The minister indicated that the British have promised to provide support in multilateral financial institutions and to study the possibility of developing technical assistance and encouraging trade exchanges. Mr. Benbitour said that his talks with the British energy minister dealt with the possibility of cooperation between Sonatrach and British Petroleum.

Egypt

Debate Over Detained Lawyer's Death Continues

Inquiry Seen Benefiting State

NC2305212294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 May 94 p 12

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Excerpts] The government could end its troubles, be happy, and make others happy if it would accept the formation of a medical and judicial committee to investigate the reasons for the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani. Any result from such an investigation would be to its favor. If the death were natural, caused by asthma, there would be no problem. If it were natural, caused by other reasons, death is something inevitable and there would be no case. If there were an injury that resulted in death and the Interior Ministry brought the one responsible to trial, this could serve as a model of justice. In the past the Interior Ministry has brought more than one officer to trial on charges of attacking citizens. This improves the image of the police and is considered a sign of respect for the feelings of people. The government could gain a great deal as a result of this. [passage omitted]

Resorting to the prosecution and the courts does not tarnish the image of the police. It would show that the government respects human rights and wants justice to be done. It also would end the complaints that some people have against the government. It is true that terrorists must be dealt with firmly if they try to resist or attempt to resist. Our disagreement with the government is on its measures for detaining people and the need to respect human rights during questioning. It is better for the government to capture people alive, because they can provide information.

The Egyptian Human Rights Association issued a statement about the incident which did not make any specific charges, but expressed doubts. Nothing can remove these doubts except a neutral judicial- medical investigation. [passage omitted]

Minister Calls Madani 'Terrorist'

NC2105093794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that deceased lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani held an important position within the extremist groups. He said that some terrorists have confessed to the higher state security prosecution that the lawyer was the direct contact link to Tal'at Yasin Hammam, the amir of the organization. The latter died on 25 April 1994 in a clash with the police.

In statements to the Cairo-based AL-AKHBAR newspaper today, al-Alfi said that 'Abd-al-Harith was moving funds between the leaders of the organization inside the prison and those outside it. He was also responsible for funding the activities of the organization by distributing the support funds from abroad.

In his statements, the interior minister said the dead terrorist lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani never entered the state investigations' building. Right after he was arrested, upon orders from the prosecution, he was taken to the hospital where he died from a severe asthmatic attack. The interior minister affirmed that the prosecution had autopsied the body and the coroner's report has been presented to the public prosecutor.

Al-Alfi noted that the events at the Lawyer's Union, which were orchestrated by some lawyers who belong to the disbanded Muslim Brotherhood group, are seen as another ring in the chain of confrontation between terrorism and security. He pointed out that these lawyers tried to cause tension among the Egyptian people.

Al-Alfi said that the police forces were very patient and showed great self-restraint regarding these events.

He added that he had asked police patrols outside the Union's headquarters not to storm the building. He pointed out that he asked the lawyers to resort to legal channels in order to present their viewpoints. However, they refused and insisted on causing this hubbub. Some of them even threatened to march with weapons.

The interior minister clarified that despite all this, the police did not resort to the use of the emergency law because they believe in the sovereignty and legitimacy of the law.

Police Clash With Alexandria Islamic Society

NC2305184994 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 19-25 May 94 p 2

[Report by Amirah Huwaydi: "Clampdown on Alexandria Islamic Society"]

[Text] A decision by the governor of Alexandria to dissolve the board of directors of a religious society for what was officially described as financial malpractice triggered clashes last week between security forces and members of the society and their sympathisers in the working class Alexandria neighbourhood of Al-Wardiyan. An undetermined number of people were injured and others arrested.

A source at the Alexandria state security department put the number of those arrested at 20. But 'Adil 'Id, a lawyer and member of the Alexandria branch of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights [EOHR], said as many as 338 people had been detained.

The trouble began when Nahid Hafiz Abu-al-'Azm, a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, went to the society's head office, accompanied by a number of policemen, on 8 May to enforce the governor's decision.

According to eyewitness Yusri 'Abbas, a butcher who lives and works in the neighbourhood, members of the society and their families as well as hundreds of sympathisers reacted by staging a sit-in inside the building which they locked from the inside. "Sheikhs shouted anti-government slogans through loudspeakers and urged the people of the district to challenge the police," he said. By that time, the number of police had swelled to hundreds.

Another eyewitness, Ahmad Qasim, said the protesters hurled stones and bottles of acid at police who responded with tear gas and used batons. The violence continued for two days.

According to 'Adil 'Id of the EOHR, 138 persons were remanded in custody for 15 days on charges of staging an illegal gathering, resisting the police and damaging property. Some of them are members of the society and the Islamist-leaning Labour Party while others are members of the Physicians Syndicate and the local municipal council. Moreover, 'Id said, about 200 persons were detained under state of emergency powers, and no specific charges were levelled against them.

The security source said the governor's decision to dissolve the board of al-I'tisam bi Habl Allah society was triggered by administrative and financial irregularities. The Arabic name of the society is derived from a Quranic verse and may be translated as "holding fast to the rope which God stretched out for the faithful."

The governor's decision means that "board members will have to be replaced by others through democratic elections," the source said. "It does not mean that the role of the society must come to an end."

The society is located in a four storey white building atop the Abu-'Umar Mosque. In addition to running the mosque itself, the society also extends medical and educational services to the poor inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Dr Ibrahim al-Za'farani, chairman of the human rights committee of the Physicians Syndicate, said the board of the society was not the first to be dissolved. Others which faced the same fate were al-Rida', Huda al-Islam, al-Ikhlas and al-Tawhid. "All were Islamic-oriented and all were in Alexandria, and the reasons for dissolving them were not legitimate," he said.

Al-Za'farani said that instead of shutting down these societies, the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) should compete with them in extending services to the public. "And the NDP is capable of offering much more than these nongovernmental societies," he said.

Paper Views New Israeli, Syrian Positions on Peace

NC2105090194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper reports that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region this week was highlighted by the considerable change in Syrian and Israeli stands regarding a peaceful settlement. It notes the clear discussions regarding Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the possibilities of normalizing Syrian-Israeli relations in the future.

AL-AHRAM's editorial for tomorrow, Saturday 21 May, says that the current talk on the many differences between the stands of the two sides is only natural with such complex and intricate negotiations. It notes that on the other hand, this means negotiations now address many of the detailed issues and are not merely confined to generalities and principles that govern the negotiations process.

AL-AHRAM affirms that Egyptian-U.S. efforts will continue to provide hope for moving the Syrian-Israeli course along and clearly pushing it forward despite all appearances to the contrary.

AL-AKHBAR Views Sudan's Anti-Egyptian Acts

NC2205071794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper denounces the acts which the Sudanese regime is eager to commit every now and then to harm the Egyptian people and Government, describing these acts as weird, provocative, foolish, and deliberate, which any normal Egyptian citizen will call provocative.

In today's editorial, the paper notes that this is not the first time the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime has resorted to such cheap acts, which may be designed to test Egypt's reaction and exploit it domestically and abroad should our reaction be violent and firm. But, it adds, Egypt has been patient more than once with the fabricated battles into which the Sudanese regime seeks to drag Egypt.

The paper says that Egypt, with its international standing and sincere people, rejects all the schemes of the Sudanese regime, which imposes control over its people by force.

The paper adds that if those who unexpectedly assumed power in Sudan believe that Egypt's patience is limitless, they are fooling themselves and should realize this fact very well.

The paper asserts that Egypt alone is the one who will decide how to answer these failed attempts to provoke it; and if the response takes some time, it is because of Egypt's deep concern for the Sudanese people. AL-AKHBAR concludes its editorial with the Arab adage: "Avoid the patient man's anger."

Various Dailies Note Events in Yemen

NC2205075694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AHRAM, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and AL-WAFD call for an end to the fighting in Yemen and cite the need for the two sides to resolve their differences through negotiations and dialogue to preserve Yemeni unity.

AL-AHRAM notes that, as President Husni Mubarak said in his latest appeal to the Yemeni leaders, the current situation in Yemen requires wisdom and reason because the Arab nation today is in dire need of unity and solidarity. The paper says that President Mubarak's appeal came at a very critical time in the Yemeni crisis, after confrontation had intensified between the two parties. It adds that President Mubarak was eager to spare Yemen frightful massacres that might kill a great number of Yemeni people and further destroy their resources.

AL-JUMHURIYAH regrets the continued fighting between the Yemeni brothers on the fourth anniversary of Yemeni unity, because the Yemenis are writing the end of the unity with their own blood and burying the hope of all Arabs that the unified state will remain steadfast. The paper says leaders of the Yemeni conflict are contributing to distorting the Arabs' image in the entire world despite repeated appeals by President Husni Mubarak and Arab leaders to convince them to heed the voice of reason and logic and avoid a crisis.

For its part, AL-WAFD asks what led to the collapse of Yemeni unity and the escalation of the differences between brothers to the point of using aircraft, tanks, and missiles, and tens of thousands of victims. The paper regrets the collapse of unity in Yemen on its fourth anniversary.

Paper Questions, Examines Inflation Figures

NC2305174794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 May 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Who Should We Believe on the Issue of Inflation?"]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri admitted before the Consultative Council yesterday that the rate of inflation in Egypt has reached 15 percent. We do not think that the man made a mistake, because he has a strong memory and remembers all the figures of the budget and plans and even the entire five-year plan.

Because the man did not make a mistake, we would like to ask where Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi got the figure that he announced about a month ago, which was that the inflation rate is 7 percent. A mistake can be made about 1 or 2 percent, but such a big difference is not a mistake at all. It shows that there is something definitely wrong in the figures that the government announces.

The figure announced by Dr. al-Janzuri is the same one that was announced before by Dr. Salah Hamid, the governor of the Central Bank, who was relieved of his post because of it.

We have a right to ask about the truth and for the people to learn the real inflation figure, because it is in the light of this rate that interests on loans and deposits are calculated and the percentage of the periodic cost of living allowance is determined, which happens in civilized countries.

Yes, we want to know. Who should we believe, the prime minister or his deputy, the former Central Bank governor or the IMF?

The inflation rate in any country is well known not only to financial dealers and businessmen but to the simple man on the street and the union members. This is because prices and wages are determined on the basis of this rate. We must put an end to this contradiction between senior officials.

Yes, we want the truth and nothing but the truth, O Government of Egypt.

Finance Minister Views State Budget Investments

NC2205183994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The state's general budget for fiscal year 1994-1995 has allocated about 35 billion pounds to investments necessary for development and production and procuring needed equipment. This represents one of the primary bases of the economic plan to help increase production.

Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz said that from the allocated amount 7 billion pounds have been designated for services agencies—the administrative body, local administration, and service authorities—and that 5.8 billion pounds have been designated for economic and similar agencies. He added that 22.2 billion pounds have been allocated for investments in the public and private business sectors.

He said that the new budget includes some 12.8 billion pounds as investments for the state's service agencies and economic bodies representing approximately 37 percent of the total investments contained in the state's general budget. He emphasized that this increase in investment allocations will help complete necessary projects in very important sectors achieve the goals of economic development. Foremost of these, he said, are the projects of infrastructure and public utilities, such as water, sewage, and development of slum areas, in addition to educational and health requirements, such as schools and hospitals.

He said the share of public and private business and cooperative sectors, which amounts to 22.2 billion pounds and represents 63 percent of the 1994-1995 plan investments, reflects the prospective pivotal role of these sectors in increasing production and employment.

He noted the new budget's reliance in funding the development plan's projects on intrinsic financing, as well as financing from local savings without resorting to banks to avoid inflationary effects detrimental to the national economy.

The finance minister said that foreign loans will be sought on a limited basis and only for production projects, hence the foreign loans included in the general budget do not exceed 2.3 percent.

Minister Offers Plan To Attract Oil, Gas Companies

NC2205180094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Minister of Petroleum Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has announced a new ministry strategy to extend help to foreign companies prospecting for oil and natural gas. The strategy allows these companies to market their share of discovered crude if they desire.

In a statement made today, he said the Egyptian General Petroleum Authority will buy the foreign partner's share of the discovered natural gas under a gas-selling accord. A 75-percent share of gas will be purchased to provide natural gas for production and services as part of a plan to replace oil products with natural gas and secure oil for export to acquire foreign currency necessary to implement the five-year economic-social plan and avoid borrowing.

He noted that the Egyptian General Petroleum Authority is constantly working to attract as many international oil and natural gas prospecting companies as possible by inviting international bids for basins with new high oil and natural gas potential to allow these companies to make appropriate decisions on investing in Egypt.

He remarked that this policy has succeeded in attracting numerous new companies to Egypt over the past years and that major international companies that left Egypt 10 years ago have decided to return after discovering that Egyptian oil agreements have improved and developed.

Dr. al-Banbi said that the oil sector recently opened the door to the Egyptian private sector to participate in oil and natural gas exploration and prospecting because that sector has gained experience in the field. The aim of this plan, he added, is to close the gap that might be caused when some international companies withdraw from the Egyptian market for any reason.

Libya

Yemen's al-Bid Contacts al-Qadhdhafi To Explain Events

LD2305121294 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received a telephone call today from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid who explained to the brother leader the full picture of the current situation in Yemen and the its ensuing tragedies.

Unity Committee Urges Reconciliation in Yemen

LD2305215894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 May 94

["Text" of statement by the General People's Committee for Unity; place and date not given]

[Text] The realization of unity by fraternal Yemen and its return to its original status as an united country had great effects on all the sons of the Arab nation as an important event in the modern history of the Arabs. This was emphasized by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, as soon as Yemeni unity was announced. He was aware of the importance of the achievement and of the dangers which threatened it from imperialist and reactionary forces, lying in wait for the Arab nation.

The Great Jamahiriyah's General People's Committee for Unity, proceeding from the sacrosanct unionist ideals of the great al-Fatih revolution and in consecration of the unionist longing of the Libyan Arab people, announced in the document proclaiming the people's authority, to continue the struggle until comprehensive Arab unity is achieved and, in response to the leading role of the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution and his continuous drive to achieve Yemeni unity, reaffirms the need for efforts to be exerted to stop the bloodletting and for recourse to be had to wisdom and dialogue. Based upon unionist legality and the pledge and concord document, efforts should be made to save Yemeni unity, which should be valued as a pan-Arab achievement that must not be abandoned.

The General People's Committee for Unity, proceeding from its pan-Arab commitments and in implementation of the basic people's congresses' resolutions, reaffirms the following:

1. Efforts should be exerted to preserve the unity of Yemen, which was the product of the will of the Arab people in Yemen, as a historic achievement of the Arab nation's modern era.

2. The unity of Yemen and its historical borders should be preserved as an inalienable geographical and historical unit, which is an integral part of the pan-Arab entity.

3. An appeal should be made for an end to the fighting and the resumption by brothers, in both Aden and Sanaa, of dialogue, leading to an understanding based upon the terms of the constitution of the unified state and the pledge and concord document. All unionist people in fraternal Yemen shoud be urged to work for such an aim in order to prevent imperialist and reactionary forces—the enemies of the Arab nation—from making capital out of this situation.

The General People's Committee for Unity, while urging the above, calls upon all the sons of the Arab nation to exert efforts in order to allow united Yemen to remain in its true position in the movement of comprehensive confrontation, which is being waged by the masses of the Arab nation against imperialist schemes aimed at destroying the Arab nation, plundering its resources, and undermining its sovereignty.

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech on 'Cleanup Bill'

LD2005084994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 May 94

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the chairman and secretaries of the Jamahiriyah cleanup committees on 18 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] As I have already told you the Cleanup Bill is a very important law. Its importance lies not only in the fact that it is a deterrence which will bring about justice and prevent any deviation and corruption. Its real importance lies in the fact that it is an affirmation of the democratic system, the people's authority, and a real application of the jamahiri theory. It will also help the society to correct itself if and when it deviates. If the political power is a dictatorship, like most political systems in today's world, society's fight against deviation and its will to correct itself can only be expressed through violence, that is, a revolution against the political system. [passage omitted]

And here lies the importance of the Cleanup Bill: Now the Libyan people can, when it feels that there is a deviation or even a corruption, meet at the basic people's congresses and issue the necessary legislation which will eliminate any deviation and correct any direction.

We should meet democratically and calmly at our basic people's committees in a comfortable manner and issue the necessary laws and decisions which will correct any deviation, regardless of its seriousness. And that is what has actually taken place: The Libyan people felt that there have been deviations by individuals, which could be far reaching, and decided that such a matter warranted the intervention of the people's authority to carry out a correction. The Libyan people passed, through the people's congresses, the Cleanup Bill, which has given rise to the cleanup committees.

As far as I am concerned I think that such a step was a historical and a very important one in the application of the theory. Without democracy and without the law we will be at the mercy of adventures; democracy will be jeopardized and all our gains will be threatened by undemocratic and illegal initiatives by some selfish individuals which will lead to further serious deviations.

Therefore, to protect freedom and gains, the democratic project must be a legal one. It is only a democratic one if it is based on the people's authority. The law must be issued by a people's authority. And this is what actually has taken place.

The Cleanup Bill is an opportune law. It is here because every citizen has felt the need to enact such a bill.

It is for the first time that a bill has stipulated that public property is sacred, protected, and safe, and that no-one should harm it or exploit it illegally. This new legal doctrine did not exist before; only private property used to sacred. The latter was, however, a right concept which has been abused. [passage omitted]

Public property, the property of the whole people, was not sacred until this moment... [pauses] ... until this bill is enacted. No one used to talk about public property. Public property used to be ownerless, a matter which opened the doors for theft and the appetite of thieves.

Now the Libyan people can dot the i's and cross the t's by meeting at the people's congresses and enacting this law with its free will and stating that public property is sacred and protected. It must not be exploited and should only be used in accordance with the stipulations of the law. This used to be said about private property which used to belong to entrepreneurs, profit takers, usury takers, and greedy people.

Once the Cleanup Bill is enacted, everyone should thereafter bear in mind that public property, which belongs to the whole people, is sacred. Anyone who harms it should have his hand amputated in accordance with the law because he is a thief. [passage omitted containing indistinct portion]

If there is one thing that the Libyan people have done which confirms the authority of the people, preserves achievements, supports freedom, and bars the way to any conspiracies and deviations, it is the Cleanup Bill. This is a democratic achievement.

Of course this law considers illegal gain to be theft and theft means cutting off the hand. Hands will indeed be cut off after this law is implemented. As they used to say, those who lived in the town before you, if someone weak committed theft, they would apply the hadd punishment [loss of hand] to him.

But if a nobleman committed theft, they would let him go. No. Those whose hands will be cut off will be noblemen and those who are not noblemen. All people are alike whether noble or not. Establish your building on justice so that the building does not fall down on you. No-one should think that he is above the law which prescribes the amputation of the hand. Any citizen of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will be affected by this law. [passage omitted]

Of course this law is a very serious law. It reaffirms the true people's authority. It also reaffirms that corrections are being made in accordance with the laws in force. It is a very serious one, however, because it encompasses everything [words indistinct] and applies to everyone. [passage omitted]

This law is double-edged: if you register the things you have stolen you will be brought to account, and if you do not register them you will be brought to account twice, a double theft: First, you stole and second you hid what you stole, and this is considered as second theft. [passage omitted]

Had it not been for this bill there would have been a revolution against a revolution. However, thanks to this bill and to the Libyan people's free will there is a revolution inside a revolution.

Because the matter is so serious, we are trying to give some respite to the Libyans, who did not expect this law to be enacted, did not think that anyone would make them accountable, and did not think that their hands would be cut off one day. [words indistinct]. I would like to say here that before we [word indistinct] and we start cutting off the hands of those thieves, who have been fiddling with public property, we should try to give them a warning. God says no one should be punished before a warning has been sent to him. We are giving them a good respite which is also a warning that hands will actually be cut off.

This warning and good omen I am giving will last for the period of launching the cleanup committees and announcing its officials. This time we will alert people but after that the cleanup bill and the cleanup committees will be in force constantly. There will be no warning, what is permitted is clear and what is prohibited is clear. [passage omitted]

Whoever takes the initiative and registers anything he has hidden will not be subjected to [words indistinct] by the cleanup committees. So if someone takes the initiative and immediately registers everything he possesses, he can be assured and should not fear anything. Some people might tell you, now that you have registered your possessions you will have to talk to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi later. Do not worry, go on and register, say indeed I have three farms of which only one is registered and I want to register all of them. When you register the three of them and you are questioned afterwards by the cleanup committees and the people's court on the way and in which you had acquired the three farms, there will be two possibilities. Either you acquired them in a legitimate in which case they will remain yours, or if you acquired them in an illegal way, then the farms will be taken from you without your hand being amputated provided your are abiding by the [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

If they discover goods with you which you have not declared, then you will be considered as a thief and your hand will be cut off. You will lose the goods and your hand will be cut off as well. But if you go straightaway, declare your goods, say that you have hidden things, a hidden factory, farm or home, or hidden money or animals and you say: I want to register them now and ask me how I got them. In this case, even if you had acquired things in an illegitimate manner, your hand will not be cut off, and I am responsible for this. They will bring you to account, and perhaps they will recover the goods from you without hand cutting. This is if you take the initiative of declaring everything you own. This is number one, and let he who listens tell whoever is not listening. He who takes the initiative of paying the due excise duties and taxes which he was avoiding will not be asked questions and will be cleared of accusation. [passage omitted]

All the Libyans who know [words indistinct] lazy, [word indistinct], making evasive tactics. As of today, he will considered as [word indistinct] of a revolution, so as to be able to escape from the accusation of theft and [words indistinct]. This is number two. Number three concerns applicants for a licence [to trade]. Anyone engaged in any activity without a license, and [word indistinct] the cleanup committees, is regarded as a thief because he engages in an activity which brings him an income, but he does not pay excise duty or tax, and anyone not paying excise duties and taxes is considered as a thief and the retribution is the severing of a hand. This includes those selling in the streets and [words indistinct], let alone other actitivities. Those called suitcase traders or middlemen need a license. What I am saying is this: Anyone engaged in an activity which he deems useful, including charlatans who claim to make amulets to cure people from being possessed by the devil, should have a licence for which he pays tax. [passage omitted]

Anyone who is engaged in a trade at home or in the street without a license, anyone transporting goods likely to be bought or sold on a vehicle, any economic activity, small or big, without a licence will lead to those engaged in them being considered as thieves, in accordance with the law [words indistinct], and his hand will be cut off. To be saved from the severing of his hand he should from today obtain a license. [passage omitted]

In the end, whoever takes the initiative and confesses to carrying out an activity forbidden by the cleanup law, do we forgive him or not? [passage omitted]

If they confess before the cleanup committees reach them, we will pardon all the people who are currently selling dollars and dinars in the black market. [passage omitted]

But if someone continues to deal in the black market, or in smuggling or things which we do not currently know about—but he knows them—but if we find them, it will be considered a case of theft and his hand will be amputated. [passage omitted]

Someone might come and say: Before you arrest me and amputate my hand, you should know that I have been doing this job [words indistinct]. This will then be a [word indistinct] confession, he will be considered a wise, responsible man who repented; this repentance will [word indistinct] what preceded it and as a consequence this person will not be questioned by the cleanup committees. Apart from this case, this law is like a sword. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice says it will be preferable to allow a deadline sufficient to give people the chance to repent, t6o give back their ill-gotten possessions and settle their situations. [Addressing officials at the meeting] So, issue an announcement and allow the deadline you consider to be reasonable and sufficient. Very good and all the best of success.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Letter to Nelson Mandela

LD2105183694 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 21 May 94

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al Maa [May] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution sent the following letter to the African militant Nelson Mandela, the laureat of al-Qadhdhafi international prize for human rights, on the occasion of the victory of the people of South Africa:

"To His Excellency Nelson Mandela, the president of the Republic of South Africa, greetings, words are unable to express this historic victory of a people who fought injustice, falsification, tyranny, murder, torture, humiliation and disdain for 300 years. But this people did not capitulate or recognize under torture that the land of blacks belonged to whites paying for that with blood and tears which resulted at the end in the declaration of freedom and independence of the people of South Africa. On this historic occasion, we must stand solemnly in tribute and respect for the martyrs of Soweto, martyr Steve Biko and Mahatma Ghandi whose name was linked to the cause of the South African people. Also revolutionaries everywhere and all peoples confronting [word indistinct] colonialism respectfully salute hero Nelson Mandela, the [words indistinct] immensely patient man. The struggle and victory of our people in south of black Africa draws the historic way for the struggle and expected victory for our people in usurped Palestine. Nothing muddled the clear skies of South Africa lit with candles of the bodies of the victims of racism and lamps run with the blood spilled for freedom and cleaned with the tears of millions who were tortured for the sake of their right to live in their homeland except the presence of the racist terrorist Zionist delegation which befouled purified South Africa. It seems that the Zionists were so guilt ridden that they allowed themselves to attend the delight of people during their celebration of victory over international racism. Did the Zionist forget their unholy alliance with the Pretoria regime and their support for it against you "and the exchange of expertise in torture and racism?". Weren't the Israelis the natural ally of the racist regime of South Africa. Didn't the Israelis take part with whites in tens of years of genocide and torture against blacks. Glory for you personally and your great people and martyrs [word indistinct] on the collapsing Zionist racism and white racism. Yours brotherly, Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi [no closing quotation mark as received].

BBC Coverage of Cairo Demonstration Criticized

LD1705213894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The Arabic service of the BBC, which is subordinate to the British intelligence MI6, broadcast what it called a live coverage of confrontations which took place in Cairo between the security forces and the lawyers' bar association. It also broadcast hostile statements against the Egyptian Government.

JANA Arab affairs editor commented on this flagrant intervention in Egypt's internal affairs and said:

Through its Arabic-speaking service, which is subordinate to the English intelligence MI6, England continues the vilification campaign on the Arab countries seizing any opportunity and exploiting any internal incident to give vent to its anger and grudge on the Arab regimes.

The editor expressed extreme astonishment at the Arab governments' silence over this continued audacity exercised by the English radio and other Western racist media which makes daily subject-matter of the news, commentaries, and analyses which harm the ruling Arab regimes.

It seems that the BBC is reassured of the non-existence of a deterrent in the shadow of the Western governments' encouragement and the silence of the Arab regimes, while the situation changes completely when a news item is reported by Arab mass media.

The editor concluded his comment by saying that the logic of things would be that we, the Arabs, accept what is being issued by us against one another as being an internal Arab affair, and entirely refuse the West's intervention and allegations.

Kuwait

Emir Receives Yeltsin's Envoy, Delegation

LD1505111194 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] The Emir of Kuwait this morning at 1100 hours received Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, special envoy of the Russian president, and the accompanying delegation. The Russian envoy delivered to his Highness a letter, including an official invitation, from His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin to his Highness to visit Russia. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Envoy Comments

LD1605142494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1358 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy, who is visiting Kuwait, stressed the importance of Iraq's compliance with international resolutions pertinent to Kuwait's liberation war.

This statement was made during a meeting between envoy Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, held at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, quoting the Russian envoy, told correspondents that Moscow was committed to its firm position on the necessity of Iraq complying with international resolutions, including Resolution 833, related to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border demarcation, and those concerned with releasing Kuwaiti POWs from the prisons of that regime. [passage omitted]

Statement Denies Algerian 'Good Offices' for Iraqi Ties

LD1605133494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1239 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpts] Tunis, 16 May (KUNA)—The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Tunis today denied that there are Algerian good offices for what is described as clearing the air between Kuwait and the Iraqi regime, on the occasion of a tour to the recent Maghreb countries by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by KUNA, the Embassy expresses "Kuwait's rejection of the attempt to link Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's tour and the message which the head of the Iraqi regime sent to the Algerian president." [passage omitted] The Embassy statement affirms that relations between the State of Kuwait and the Iraqi regime are ruled by international legal resolutions which Iraq must observe, instead of making open attempts to contain them and evade implementing them.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, Egyptian President Discuss Regional Events

LD1705055094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2245 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, 16 May—King Fahd held talks this evening [16 May] with Egyptian President Mubarak. The two leaders discussed issues related to developments in the Arab and Muslim region in an attempt to resolve the worsening situation in a number of regional disputes.

The beloved King Fahd and President Mubarak expressed their sincere wishes that brothers everywhere would take the occasion of these blessed days as an opportunity to stop the fighting, spare lives and bring about security and peace.

'Source' on King Fahd's Message on Yemeni Cease-Fire

LD2105075494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2359 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, 20 May (SPA)—In a statement to SPA, a responsible source announced this evening that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, had earlier sent a message to His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, in which he expressed his hopes for an end to the fighting during the days of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, out of respect for this Islamic occasion. This took place when the beloved king received His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni planning and development minister, last Wednesday, 18 May.

The source went on to say: Consultations between the two sides continued on bringing about an end to the fighting.

At 1900 this evening, the custodian of the two holy mosques received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency President Salih, during which a number of matters were discussed. Chief among these was the Yemeni issue.

The source added: When the Yemeni mass media announced a three-day cease-fire this evening, effective from midnight, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz talked by phone with His Excellency President Salih and expressed his appreciation for the pleasing response regarding the cease-fire.

Libyan Pilgrims Cross Border From Jordan

LD1405164294 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, al-Maa [May] 14, (JANA)— After the bitter suffering, hardship, the death of some of them and loss of many camels, the Libyan Arab pilgrims, heading for Mecca to perform their religious duty, crossed on camels the Jordanian territory to Saudi Arabia after they arrived in Jordan from Egypt on a crossing ferry through the Red Sea. This was due to the occupation of the area of Umm al-Rashrash by the Zionist enemy separating it from the Arab world and blocking the land road to Mecca.

The Libyan Arab pilgrims arrived on camels in the area of Halat 'Ammar in Saudi Arabia where they were welcomed by members of the brotherhood bureau to Saudi Arabia and the Saudi authorities in the area.

The pilgrims chanted slogans reaffirming their determination to continue their journey to Mecca.

Also the pilgrims chanted slogans in support of the great al- Fateh revolution and its leader reasserting their defiance of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by Western countries preventing the Libyan Arab citizens from performing their religious duty.

Cleric Comments on 'Sedition,' Human Rights

LD2005152294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 0910 GMT 20 May 94

[Friday sermon by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah al- Shaykh, member of the council of senior ulema, to hajj pilgrims at Namirah Mosque, near Mecca—live]

[Excerpts] Brothers: May God's peace and benediction be on you [passage omitted].

O nation of Islam: Look at the sedition in the ranks of the Muslim nation. There is sedition as well as wars, internecine fighting and mutual destruction in a number of Muslim countries. Sedition which has led to loss of life, property and the destruction of the country. But who benefits from all this? Muslims should fear God and their religion; they should spare the destruction of their people and should remember that God will be questioning them on the sedition and the wars and He will be judging them on that sedition. O nation of Islam, you should fear God.

Let us go back to the teachings of our true religion. Let us make God's teachings an arbiter in our problems. Let us think and contemplate that such sedition will not bring any good to our nation. It will only bring destruction to property and people. And it will only sow the seeds of hatred between members of the nation. It will make it less united and it will destroy its resources. You should, O nation of Islam, fear God, use your wisdom and try to avoid sedition. Nothing good will ever come from sedition. [passage omitted]

O nation of Islam, nation of Islam: The enemies of the nation have been trying to discredit it by claiming that Islam has ignored human rights and that the latter has been ignored in Muslim faith. This is a lie and a fallacy. Anyone who cares to examine our faith will find out that it is the faith which has guaranteed the true meaning of human rights. God has said to his messenger: We have sent thee, save as a mercy unto all beings. [passage omitted]

Human rights have been guaranteed under our faith. Creeds before Islam used to fight each other. Whenever a creed triumphed over another one it tried to annihilate it as much as it could. But once God sent Muhammad, may God's prayers and benedictions be upon him, as a mercy to the nation and to humanity... Hence, human rights are respected by our shari'ah and by the Muslim faith. Believers must, however, obey the shari'ah; they must obey its divine ordinance on what is permitted and what is not. Their religion has urged them to do so. The true Muslim is someone who would not harm other Muslims by words or deeds. [last sentence from the hadith] [passage omitted]

Our religion has protected human rights for everybody and those who claim respect for human rights are the ones who are the enemies of mankind, the ones whose societies gave birth to racial and ethnic discrimination, the ones who are making weapons of destruction so that the Islamic nations use them to eliminate one another. They are the ones who ignite sedition. Islam, with its tenets, is innocent of the terrible events and horrible massacres which one sees around. [passage omitted: Islam is against dishonesty and treacherous behavior; giving examples from the prophet's behaviour]

Islam is a religion of mercy, justice, and equity, and those who (?allege) that Islam relinquishes the human rights of Muslims and non-Muslims are deceiving people. Islam protects the very meaning of human rights. [passage omitted: the ummah and its leaders are abiding by the Islamic law as dictated by the Holy Book]

Muslims should not listen to the ideas, deceptions, and calumnies of the enemies of Islam. They must trust their religion and know that their Islam is God's religion, which Allah chose and entrusted his messenger to convey. [passage omitted]

King Fahd, Prince 'Abdallah Address Pilgrims

LD2205203594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1505 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpts] 22 May, SPA [dateline as received]—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, sent an exhaustive address to the pilgrims on the occasion of the pilgrimage season of 1414 AH corresponding to 1994. Here now follows the text of this address.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We thank Almighty God for having bestowed on us the religion of Islam, and for having guided us on the right path and made us the best nation on earth that preaches good and avoids evil. [passage omitted]

Brothers, delegations to the holy house of God, brother Muslims everywhere! The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is pained by the tense situation in most of the Islamic land nowadays. The bloody situation in Afghanistan, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and elsewhere causes regret, pain, and also worry. We have made considerable and consistent efforts at all levels, through all channels, and by all means to bring an end to the current tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We pinned hope on the recent move provided for in the agreement signed on 1 March 1994, concerning the establishment of a unified state between the brother Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and their Bosnian Croat friends and compatriots, which would end in the setting up of a confederation with the neighboring Republic of Croatia. This was thought to be a practical step acceptable to the parties to the conflict, which would bring about security, peace, and concord. [passage omitted]

However, this optimism did not last long because the Serbs continued their aggression, defied the international community, stood up in front of the successive UN Security Council resolutions to halt the aggression and protect Bosnian safe zones, and refused and continue to refuse to heed international legality. This high-handedness and messing about can be deterred only by a decisive international determination that will move the efforts of the United Nations from the stage of caution and courtesy to other states, and from hesitation over the risk of an extension of the war zones into an energetic and decisive military measure against all those who practice high-handedness and injustice and challenge the international will. Just as it has affirmed what is right and refuted injustice and aggression, such a will can do away with the arrogance and defiance of the Serbs, entrench equitable rights, and impose peace that will ensure security and stability for all.

As an Islamic nation with more than 1 billion Muslims, we must bear our responsibilities and apply pressure to impose peace and stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we must strive to secure the safety of its people and come to the help of the latter. [passage omitted]

Brothers, Muslims in all corners of the world. With hearts filled with sadness and pain, we are following the gradual deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. This is unacceptable by any Muslim who is aware that shedding the blood of another Muslim is prohibited by God. What is more, shedding the blood of a Muslim by his brother is not only prohibited, but is also a human tragedy and a historic precedent that is taking place in an era of knowledge, education, understanding, and the promotion of the values of mankind.

Despite all the justifications that are provided for the continuation of the bloody situation there, fighting among the sons of one people is an unacceptable tragedy. The destruction of the country and the exhaustion of the Afghan achievements is an irresponsible act by any material, ethical, and human standards. Above all, it is unacceptable by the standards of the pure Muslims jurisdiction that is against the squandering of peoples capabilities and the violation of their rights to live in security and stability.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not expect to see happen what has happened and is still happening in Afghanistan, because we were convinced that the sons and leaders of Afghanistan were aware that the shock of fighting in Afghanistan, its motives, and circumstances would be disastrous. [passage omitted]

What is happening in Afghanistan has tarnished the true image of the genuine Islamic Jihad that is carried out in the name of God; yet this Jihad is driven by individuals' whims, affiliations to groups and gatherings, and the conflict between the sons who share the same faith and land.

Not only that, but what is happening there gave the impression that individual ambitions that had emerged there had become bigger than Afghanistan, and that the attainment and achievement of these ambitions and interests take precedence over everything else, even if this meant a long war between the bellicose parties and turning the country into ruins because of the spread of a civil war. [passage omitted]

Today, however, and three years after the Afghan state had recovered its identity and sovereignty, we cannot find any justification for what is happening there. The only justification we can find is that this situation forms a part of a huge plot that targets not only Afghanistan and the Arab and Islamic states, but it also targets Islam and Muslims inside a Muslim land that had witnessed the greatest acts of heroism and gave rise to some of the greatest men in Islam.

What causes us real pain and real suffering, and what really frightens us is to see Afghanistan, and for some long years, as a source of concern, disturbances, and instability in the whole world; after it had been a source of amity and peace on earth. Do the leaders of Afghanistan really accept this situation?. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not blame any party at the expense of another party for what is happening there, it considers them all responsible for the continuing explosive situation. It appeals to everybody to show a responsible stance through which an end to the bloody phase can be reached; they should look to the future with open minds and hearts; they should put the interest and the people of Afghanistan above all other considerations.

Only then we will open our hearts to all of them and welcome them once again in Mecca, and for the last time, to agree the foundations that they deem suitable to bring about peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Brothers in God, Muslims everywhere: In spite of the relative calm in Somalia after a difficult period of conflict and fighting among its various sections, nationalities, and leaders, the situation is still vague and threatens danger at any moment.

The final reconciliation has not happened. Therefore, the lying in wait by some sections for the others still constitutes a danger to stability in that country. [passage omitted]

We thank God that our sons in Somalia have successfully discharged their humanitarian duties in the best way, and they are meeting with all appreciation and respect from all the Somalis who have seen their efforts and benefitted from their food and medical aid. What we have always hoped and wished for is to see the brothers in Somalia arrive at a formula acceptable to all of them, so that all parties get together in the service of the Somali homeland, and all potentials and capabilities may be put in the hands of a state able to save the country from the causes of division and dispersion. [passage omitted]

Brother heads and delegation members, brother Muslims everywhere. There are three basic issues that are now giving us a great deal of concern and to which we attach considerable interest. These issues are: First, the peace process; second, security in the Gulf region; third, the situation in Yemen.

We in Saudi Arabia look forward to, and strive continuously for security and stability everywhere in the world, and particularly in our region, for our brothers and for all states and peoples of the world. We thank God that the peace process has gone ahead satisfactorily, and that on 5 May the Palestinian brothers managed to attain with the Israelis a final agreement in Cairo to hand over the authority in Gaza and Jericho and the start of a new era of coexistence, and turn the peace efforts into practice. We are happy to see the Palestinian brothers begin a new era of exercising their legitimate rights on their land, and Saudi Arabia will continue to stand on the side of the just Palestinian cause until it gains victory.

At the same time, we look forward for more sincere and constructive efforts by His Excellency President Bill Clinton of the United States and his government to complete the peace process and arrive at a just, comprehensive, and complete peace in the region, and to define the remaining tracks so as to arrive at the desired objective. We are convinced that the remaining Arab brothers [Syria, Lebanon, Jordan] want peace and seek to realize it, and no doubt they will find in the clear and encouraging determination of the U.S. President to put an end to the state of war in the region, with the help of all parties, a sign of a wish for peace and an investment for the current peace momentum as well. For our part, our efforts here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue in all directions to serve this objective, whether in cooperation and coordination with his excellency the U.S. President and his administration, or with the Arab brothers, or with the other states and international quarters interested in the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Regarding the situation in the Gulf, this country is very eager to achieve a tangible cooperation between all the parties concerned in sincere and constructive endeavor to remove the causes of dispute between the six GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states and Iran. The beginning and end of these causes lie in the fact that the brothers in Iran should commit themselves to observe international conventions and standards based on mutual respect and noninterference in the domestic affairs of states, and give back the three islands [Lesser Tumb, Greater Tumb, and Abu Musa] to the United Arab Emirates. We are convinced that such a firm commitment will provide the factors of trust required to establish constructive cooperation with Iran for the good and interest of all.

Concerning the situation in Iraq, the fact that its regime continues to cheat on the UN resolutions will prevent any change in the regional and international positions to it. The Iraqi regime must carry out the UN resolutions in full without cheating, and when the current situation in Iraq comes to an end, it is expected that the region will witness a stage of stability and prosperity, and the Iraqi people will be the first to reap its fruit.

When we review the current situation in fraternal Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia feels deep regret at the deterioration of the situation there. We expressed our frank and fraternal position on 5 May, when we urged the parties to the conflict to seek arbitration in reason and logic, and to put the interest of Yemen and the people of Yemen at the forefront of priorities. We have said this and we continue to affirm it because the security of Yemen and the stability of the situation there interest us before others, and it is in our interest to see the situation stable there.

Today, we reaffirm that realism in thinking and understanding between the parties to the conflict are liable to bring the elements of security and stability to Yemen, and to spare it dangerous wars and complete destruction.

Brothers in God, Muslim brothers everywhere. The oil markets are living in changeable and unstable conditions, as a result of which the producing countries within OPEC, at the fore of which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have sustained great sacrifices due to the drop in prices during last year, the reasons and motives of which are not unseen by those who follow up the circumstances of the commodity and the production levels inside and outside OPEC.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia firmly believe that this situation will not serve anybody, on the contrary it will harm us all producers and consumers and will be sharply reflected in the world economic situation.

We do not need to warn against the absence of full understanding between the producing countries inside OPEC and the producing countries outside it, and also against the limited level of coordination and cooperation between the member states within the organization, that falls short of the level that ensures the interests of all. However, we need to emphasize that the time has come to draw up a firm policy and clear strategy that will ensure the stability of the commodity and spare it the changing political whims and climates and the special considerations and circumstances through which some countries are passing, which prompts them to pursue practices harmful to everybody. It is in the interest of everybody to seek the judgement of reason and logic, to consider everybody's interests, and agree upon a new basis and criteria that is dictated by the realities of the market, the production levels, and the world consumption needs of energy and nothing else. [passage omitted]

O brothers in God; O Muslims everywhere! Almighty God has granted us the honor of being able to serve this country, of assuming responsibility for the affairs of its loyal people, and of being vigilant over their comfort, peace, and security and promoting their interests.

We praise God the almighty and all-powerful that he has enabled us to exploit the resources and potentials of this country so that our dear country has achieved its present position, to raise the standard of living and of the services provided to the sons of our homeland, and to achieve prosperity and development, both of which we are proud of. [passage omitted]

Recently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has planned extensive and serious steps in the fields of organization and administration and God has made us successful in issuing the basic statute for the system of government, the statute for the new Council of Ministers, the statute for the Consultative Council and its establishment, and the statute for the regions and attached regulations and complementary procedures in order to put these statutes into effect and achieve more benefits and progress for our people and our nation in the future.

The Consultative Council has begun to bear fruit and participate in developing the various organizational means in our country, and is playing a positive and effective role alongside the Council of Ministers in serving and promoting the homeland and its people.

The regional councils have begun to carry out their work in such a way as to give rise to happiness and optimism. [passage omitted]

Hajj Incidents Claim More Than 800 Lives in 12 Days

LD2305235394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, 23 May, (SPA)—An authoritative source at the Ministry of Health announced today the following: After the conclusion of the Hajj rites by the pilgrims of God's holy shrine and their departure from Mina to holy Mecca for their homebound journey and, after having taken note of the daily statements on the number of those who have suffered sun stroke, have fallen victim to heat exhaustion, or have died during the period between 1 Dhi al- Hijjah 1414 H. and yesterday, Monday, 12 Dhi al-Hijjah 1414 H, he said:

1) The number of cases of sun strokes were 646; sufferers were treated immediately.

2) The number of those who suffered from heat exhaustion were 5,754; victims were transferred to hospital for treatment.

3) The number of deaths caused by old age, heart attacks, and other causes were 829, including the number of deaths that took place during today's stone-throwing ceremony [at Mina], which was caused by over crowded conditions.

The source concluded his statement by beseeching Almighty God to bless the souls of the pilgrims who have died as they were performing the ordinance of Hajj. May God's mercy be upon their souls and may God look upon them as martyrs. God is all-hearing and all-answering.

Witnesses Cited on 'Stampede'

NC2405060994 Paris AFP in English 2322 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, May 23 (AFP)—Dozens of pilgrims were killed in a stampede Monday at the Muslim holy site here, witnesses said, as authorities confirmed the incident but gave no death toll.

The witnesses, who would not be identified, said they did not know how the tragedy on Monday afternoon occurred.

They said pilgrims had been trampled to death and bodies littered the site, while religious ceremonies were taking place. Saudi security forces were at the scene but ambulances were initially barred from access.

The incident occurred as the Saudi authorities were proclaiming the successful completion of this year's pilgrimage, in which more than two million Muslims took part.

But a Saudi health ministry statement broadcast by state television said later, "a total of 829 people died during the pilgrimage season this year, as a result of this afternoon's stampede and for other reasons such as heart attacks and old age."

It also said that 6,400 received hospital treatment as a result of sun stroke and fainting.

Before news of the stampede, King Fahd had sent a message to Pilgrimage Minister Mahmud Bin-Muhammad al-Safar praising the "success" of the annual event.

The pilgrimage to Mecca, a religious duty at least once on a lifetime for all Muslims who can afford it, officially began on May 20 this year but pilgrims began arriving several weeks beforehand.

In July 1990 more than 1,400 people were killed in a panic-stricken stampede in a tunnel near here. Most were Indonesian or Turkish.

Two Algerians Killed

LD2405125794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A deadly stampede occurred yesterday in al-Mina [holy site near Mecca] during the stoning of Satan [pilgrims throw stones at three idols representing Satan] which caused the death of 182 pilgrims. Preliminary reports from our our mission in the holy places say that 13 Algerians may be among the victims.

[Unidentified speaker] Only two.

[Announcer] Sorry, only two. [passage omitted

At this very moment we have received a correction saying that the number of Algerian pilgrim victims is only 2 and not 13 as we said in the news headlines.

Yemen

Salih Demands Handover of 8 Socialist Party Leaders

PM2005133294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram, Iqbal 'Abdallah, Shafiq al-Asadi, and Muhammad 'Allam: "Sanaa Confirms Advance Toward Aden; Southerners Repel Attacks"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden, Abu Dhabi, Cairo—The fighting between northern and southern forces in Yemen—which has entered its third week—expanded and became fiercer yesterday. Sanaa confirmed yesterday that its forces were advancing toward Aden to tighten the siege around it from three directions. It said that the forces have now moved beyond the al-'Anad base. While Aden said that southern forces "have dealt crushing blows" to northern forces, "compelling them to retreat toward Kirsh" (45 km northwest of Aden). [passage omitted]

At the security level, a high-level military official in Sanaa has told AL-HAYAH that government forces (northern) are advancing toward Aden to tighten the military siege around the city from three directions: north, east, and west. Government forces "have now moved beyond the al-'Anad base having seized it and extinguished the fires caused by the rockets fired on the base from a 20-km distance until Wednesday night/Thursday morning by Socialist Party sources (southern). After combing al-'Anad base, government forces have begun to advance toward al-Hawtah, capital of Lahij Governorate, where they will join other forces which have advanced through al-Habilayn after crossing the Socialist forces' fortifications in the southern areas of al-Dali' Directorate, which they seized about 10 days ago. Meanwhile other forces advanced on this axis yesterday toward Aden."

The military official added that "government forces on the eastern axis are engaged in fierce fighting with Socialist forces in the al-'Alam area between Abyan and Aden Governorates. They had arrived from Zanjibar (capital of Abyan Governorate) from al-'Amaliqah units and other government forces backing them on this axis." He pointed out that "a land and air attack on government forces in the southeastern fringes of Abyan Governorate was repelled when government forces shelled Aden airport with rockets in the early hours of yesterday morning. The government (northern) Air Force launched air strikes against naval ships belonging to the Socialist Party, providing a cover for the al-'Amaliqah forces' land attack toward the al-'Alam area."

On the southeastern axis, the same source confirmed that northern forces "are engaged in fighting with the Socialist Salah-al-Din Brigade some 25 km from al-'Irqah port." Socialist forces on this front "have suffered heavy losses in military equipment, and are moving toward Aden."

He added that "government forces have since dawn yesterday been engaged in fierce fighting with the 'Abbas and Taysir Brigade at the approaches to 'Anaq in Shabwah Governorate." He confirmed that the city "is about to be captured by government forces."

Meanwhile, sources close to President Salih have confirmed his demand that eight Socialist Party Political Bureau leaders be handed over as a condition for a cease-fire, or that they leave the country quickly. They are 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Haydar al-'Attas, Salih Bin-Husaynun, Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Haytham Qasim Tahir, Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, Qasim Yahya, Salih Munsir al-Sayli, and Muthanna 'Askar. The president excluded from this condition Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Socialist Party, and 14 other Socialist Party Political Bureau members, most notably Jarallah 'Umar, culture minister; Anis Hasan Yahya, head of the Socialist Party parliamentary bloc; Fadl Muhsin, fish resources minister; Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah, housing minister; and Ahmad 'Ali al-Salami, electricity minister.

The sources said that President Salih briefed the Arab League secretary general's two envoys when he met with them before they left Sanaa for Cairo three days ago. [passage omitted]

Salih Issues Decree Granting General Amnesty

JN2405051794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has issued a republican decree under Law No. 1 for 1994, declaring a general amnesty. The following is the text of the decree:

The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and out of faith in the efficiency of the democratic process to bolster the victories of the Yemeni revolution; as an embodiment of the genuine spirit of tolerance existing in the mind and conscience of our people; out of absolute commitment to the duty of preserving the unity of the homeland and the cohesion of the Yemeni society in the various parts of the Republic of Yemen; out of concern that all the sons of the Yemeni people will participate in the march of national construction and contain the regrettable repercussions of the internal sedition caused by the rebellion of criminal secessionist elements against the constitutional legitimacy and the subsequent explosion of the military situation and the direct threat posed to the unity of the homeland and the security and stability of citizens; in view of all this and due to the requirements of the supreme national interest; and following the approval of the Council of Ministers and Presidential Council, decrees the following:

Article 1: With the exception of the secessionist elements whose names are given in the arrest warrant issued by the public prosecutor of the republic on 23 May, a general amnesty shall be granted to all the civilian and military men who, under the hegemony of the criminal secessionist clique, acted or behaved in a manner conflicting with the Constitution and punishable under the law. According to this decree, they will enjoy their full political and civilian rights and will continue to assume their responsibilities in the various places of work and production under commitment to constitutional legitimacy.

Article 2: Everyone who abides by the constitutional legitimacy shall benefit from this amnesty.

Article 3: This decree shall be valid as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republic's Presidency in Sanaa on 12 Dhu al-Hijjah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 23 May 1994.

[Signed] Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council;

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, acting prime minister

An arrest warrant had earlier been issued by the republic's public prosecutor, stating the following:

Based on the Constitution of the Yemeni Republic and the Penal Code and Procedural Law in force, the public prosecutor has decided the following:

I. Based on the constitution and the laws in force, and in view of the public actions they have committed, the persons named below are hereby charged with the following crimes: Violating the constitution; attacking citizens and public and private property; issuing orders in contravention of the law; and organizing rebellion and disobedience against public order.

Those persons are, in alphabetical order:

1. Ahmad 'Ubayd Bin-Daqr
2. Anis Hasan Yahya
3. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas
4. Salim Muhammad Jubran
5. Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud
6. Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun
7. Salih Shayib
8. Salih Munassar al-Siyayli
9. Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad
10. 'Ali Salim al-Bid
11. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri
12. Basim 'Abd-al-Rabb
13. Qasim Yahya
14. Muhammad 'Ali al-Qayrahi
15. Muthanna Salim 'Askar
16. Haytham Qasim Tahir

II. All the members of the Public Prosecution, officers responsible for judicial arrest, and personnel of the Armed Forces and security agencies are requested to take legal measures that ensure the arrest of all the defendants named above or anyone of them and to hand them over to the nearest office of the Public Prosecution in any governorate of the republic. Then they will be interrogated and referred to the judicial authorities, as stipulated by the law.

Salih Delivers 'Important Address' on 'Id al-Adha

JN2005181894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 94

["Text" of "important address" to Yemeni masses on the eve of 'Id al-Adha by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, read by announcer—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; thanks be to God; and prayers and peace for the soul of the last prophet and messenger.

Brother dear citizens: On this venerable day of faith, in which the magnificence of the shining picture of the Islamic nation manifests itself, represented in the guests of God visiting the holy places and taking up position in common worship to the one God on the blessed Mount 'Arafat, and in the apex of great rites that almost count as the complete pilgrimage to quote Prophet Muhammad, who said that to climb Mount 'Arafat amounts to a complete pilgrimage. This is because standing on Mount 'Arafat [word indistinct] is an important religous event, where the sentiments of all Muslims gravitate [word indistinct] the close bond that does not unravel, and that makes us stick more firmly to it and believe more in the justice of the virtuous Islamic faith. We thank God for his guidance.

On the occasion of the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, I take pleasure to send my sincere, heartfelt congratulations to all members of our people and Arab and Islamic nations, hoping that when the occasion next comes round all of us will be in the happiest state possible. This 'Id confirms great values of sacrifice and self-denial that are today manifest in the heroic acts of the courageous and faithful sons of our believing and proud people in the Armed Forces and Security Forces as they fight battles of sacrifice and self-denial and stand up to rebellious and secessionist gangs within the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party and display the finest examples of sacrifice with all courage and chivalry and dedication to the sacred duty. To them in particular, I send my warmest greetings on the occasion of 'Id al- Adha [word instinct] what they have always done in the areas of sacrifice and self-denial and standing up to the enemies of the people and the homeland and the enemies of principles, ideals, and values.

Thanks to them, our people have been able to ward off the dangers that were ignited by the rebellious secessionists, threatening the homeland's unity and safety. They have extinguished the fire of those dangers before they became an overall national ordeal, thus bolstering and fortifying the people's unity, increasing the firmness of the people's faith in democracy, and enhancing faith in the present and future of the new Yemen, the Yemen of unity, freedom, and democracy, the Yemen of wellbeing, justice, and prosperity.

On this occasion, we beseech Almighty God to have bountiful mercy on all the martyrs of our people, the martyrs of the revolution, unity, and democracy, and to elevate their souls to highest ranks among the prophet's companions and martyrs. We beseech God to accept the prayers of the pilgrims to holy Mecca, to guide our steps, and to lead us along the path that pleases Him. God is all-hearing, ready to answer. Many happy returns.

Salih Receives Letter From Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

JN2305095394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, yesterday received a letter from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya. The letter deals with the current developments in our country and Libya's firm, constant position that strongly supports Yemeni unity and rejects secession under whatever name, since Yemeni unity is a pan-Arab gain and an advance step along the path to embody the pan-Arab objective of comprehensive Arab unity.

The letter expressed the fraternal Libyan people's support for their brothers in the Yemeni Republic and their backing under the umbrella of unity and democracy. It also dealt with issues of interest to both fraternal countries. The letter was delivered by brother Sayfawi Yusuf, the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa who met with the president yesterday.

The brother president praised the principled pan-Arab stand of the brothers in Libya, led by brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who has devoted all of his life to the cause of Arab unity and who played a key role in supporting all steps and efforts that led to the Yemeni unity and the establishment of the Yemeni Republic and supporting the march of unity since it was launched on 22 May 1990.

The brother president asserted that Yemeni unity is here to stay. It will be safeguarded by the Yemeni people and their Armed Forces.

Defense Minister, Army Chief Reiterate Support for Salih

JN2105185894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Brothers Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the defense minister; and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al- Sayyani, the chief of staff, have sent a cable to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. Following is the text:

Brother struggler Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces; brother members of the Presidential Council:

In the name of your brothers and sons—the valiant fighters, the protectors of the revolution, unity, and democracy, who are holding out at all the positions of honor and sacrifice across the unified Yemeni state—we take pleasure in extending heartfelt congratulations on the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Yemeni merger, whereby our people rehabilitated Yemen's history and which embodies their ambitions for a dignified, decent, and free life.

Our country is going through delicate circumstances as a result of secessionists and apostates in the Socialist Party leadership sparking off war against our people and the valiant members of the Armed Forces. Members of the Armed Forces are thus having to cope with the manifold task of protecting unity and democracy and consolidating constitutional legality and deterring the forces of secession and rebellion that want the homeland to lapse into the pre-22 May 1990 era and to wreck the unity for which our people have striven for so long and which they have come to regard as the noblest and dearest national objective for which worthy martyrs have fallen.

Your sons and brothers have, over the past two weeks, fought the battle of honor and dignity in defense of unity and democracy against the remnants of the gang of apostasy and the forces of injustice and aggression that have consistently plotted against our people's accomplishments to advance personal ends that, thanks be to God, have come to nothing.

The defenders of the sanctity and every inch of Yemeni territory reiterate their genuine loyalty under the fluttering banner of the eternal Republic of Yemen. They renew the pledge to your dedicated political leadership and to their people that they will ever be up to their heavy national responsibilities. They will be prepared to sacrifice their souls for Yemen, for its pride, stability, and prosperity so that it can take its rightful place in the community of nations. We reiterate that the Armed

Forces in these decisive moments are better prepared than ever to protect the country's sovereignty and the gains for the immortal Yemeni revolution, most of all unity, democracy, and constitutional legality. We give our word to God and the people to safeguard these accomplishments against the meddling of hatemongers to the last drop of our blood.

Once more, please accept our heartfelt congratulations. We wish you every success in spearheading the developmental and democratic drive. Many happy returns of the 'Id.

Hadi Reportedly Killed in Car Crash

PM2305132794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 May 94 p 1

[Reports by Lutfi Shatarah in London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Aden and Sanaa, Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus, Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo, and Khalil Matar in Washington: "Reports Claiming Yemeni Defense Minister Killed in Road Accident"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to unconfirmed reports, Colonel 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the Yemeni defense minister appointed by President Salih in the place of Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, has been killed in a road accident in Sanaa along with Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, minister of social affairs and security, and a number of southern military commanders loyal to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. There has been no confirmation of these reports.

The reports also said that the Yemeni president had appointed his brother Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar as defense minister.

Yesterday was the fourth anniversary of unity between the north and the south. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Interviewed on Events

JN2405094894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0544 GMT 24 May 94

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, by Muhammad al-Aswad of Cairo Voice of the Arabs radio in Sanaa; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Aswad] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Arabs, I greet you from Sanaa, the capital of sisterly the Republic of Yemen, at the beginning of this interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development in sisterly Yemen. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani, you are welcome on the airwaves of Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you very much. You are welcome to Sanaa.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, we begin this interview by analyzing the Yemeni political position on the secessionist move announced by 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Aden?

[Al-Iryani] The Yemeni political position has been expressed by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council, who stressed that any dealing or sympathy with this secessionist move will mean antagonizing 12 or 14 million Yemenis. Also, I believe that any dealing with this move will mean a definite desire to continue this war. We have heard continuous calls for halting this war. Now, any dealing with this move will contravene any call for halting the war, for this will mean a definite and strong desire to make this war go on.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, many efforts were made to contain the crisis before it exploded on the military level. Among these efforts are the efforts of Egypt and President Mubarak. Could you brief us on the yet undisclosed secrets of these efforts?

[Al-Iryani] In fact, among the most important secrets of these efforts is what I have said to my brother and colleague, 'Amr Musa, in Cairo last April. I clearly said to him: Unless the teeth of the military on both sides are removed, you cannot prevent the war. Our colleagues in Aden refuse to withdraw the forces from the former so-called boundaries in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of the pledge and accord document. If they insist on their refusal, I stress to you, brother 'Amr, that this will mean they want war. I would like to stress that they resorted to war when they came under intolerable pressure to withdraw from the former so-called boundaries. I said this at the last session of the Council of Ministers I attended in April, two weeks before the war. I declared that procrastinating the withdrawal of these troops will lead to war. I clearly told my brothers and colleagues in the Socialist Party inside the conferences room of the Council of Ministers that the absence of the defense minister from that session in particular was a war decision. I entreated them not to allow matters to fall in the hands of those who seek war. Regrettably, the appeal fell on deaf ears. Since that day, I have not entered the Council of Ministers' conferences room to attend a meeting in the presence of my colleagues in the Socialist Party.

[Al-Aswad] Now that what was feared has taken place, that the war has broken out, and that the secession has been declared, do you envisage a possibility for returning to dialogue and resolving the current political crisis in Yemen as a whole through dialogue, even by beginning to implement the positive aspects of the pledge and accord document?

[Al-Iryani] First, let me tell you that secession was a positive step as much as it was a negative one.

[Al-Aswad] What does this mean?

[Al-Iryani] First, it means that 'Ali al-Bid has announced a name for a state that has no origin. You know that among the basic foundations of a state are land, people, and authority. It is an authority similar to the royalists in the 1960s. It still has a radio station and [words indistinct] a television, but it is an authority of [word indistinct] royalists. Congratulations to the greedy ones. Second, he relieved us of an intense embarrassment in front of some of our colleagues who used to blame us for not giving al-Bid sufficient time. He has revealed his true intentions with which he started the crisis.

The third point is that he gave the brothers in limited areas, particularly Aden, which are under the control of the party a chance to say yes to unity and no to secession.

The fourth point is that it allowed us to [words indistinct]. We were fighting for some two weeks, or close to three weeks; the armies were fighting in the name of unity. This [words indistinct], but today fighting is between the unionist and the separatist. This will bring war closer to an end, but on condition that no state commits the mistake of recognition.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim, Yemeni minister of development and planning, do you frankly expect international recognition of the entity that 'Ali Salim al-Bid is seeking to establish on part of the Yemeni territory in the southern and eastern governorates?

[Al-Iryani] Frankly, I do not expect any recognition by any state, unless a fraternal Arab state commits that crime. But if Nicaragua recognizes it, congratulations to them then.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of development and planning in fraternal Yemen, one last question: London BBC radio says there is a division at the top of the power echelon in Sanaa and that you are one of those who differ with the presidency in opinion.

[Al-Iryani] In fact, London Radio these days reminds me of the Near East Radio that transmitted from Cyprus during the Suez War. Many listeners may recall how the Near East Radio acted during the Suez War. Very regrettably, London Radio is today an exact copy. I gave an interview to the English-language Service of the London Radio two nights ago. I was asked: You intend to enter Aden by force and dropped every political option. I interrupted him and said: This is untrue. We are ready to hold dialogue and reach agreement with the unionists in the Socialist Party. The unionist in the Socialist Party knows what we mean. Of course, he distorted my words and said this is evidence of a division within the party. But this decision was made by the first session of the Joint Meeting on the first day of 'Id al-Adha [21 May], that all of us who have connections to the foreign media should announce the opening of dialogue with the unionists in the Socialist Party. The unionists should announce their rejection of [words indistinct]. Therefore, and in answer to your question, the door of dialogue is open to whoever says no to secession. He who says no to secession in the Socialist Party, will be welcome. The door of dialogue is open and everything can be discussed under the canopy of one Yemeni state, one Yemeni legitimacy, and one Yemeni Army.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, you have criticized the Egyptian declaration. Why?

[Al-Iryani] I still have some criticism because talk was on northern and southern Yemen. It could be forgivable to use northern and southern forces, but to say North Yemen and South Yemen is, in my opinion, prohibited. I would also like to say that the all world media are saying fighting between the North and South. Let me tell you that certain units whose cadre is considered to be wholly southern were the spearhead in Mukayris, Shabwah, and al-Dali' because they were fighting in familiar terrain. The forces whose cadre is northern are less familiar. The spearhead on the main battle fronts consisted of forces mainly from the southern and eastern governorates. I regret to announce that the commander of the Artillery Brigade from Abyan, who spearheaded the advance toward Shabwah, was martyred three (?days) ago.

[Al-Aswad] Brother Arabs, at the end of this interview with Dr. 'Abd-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development in fraternal Yemen, in his house in Sanaa, we thank you. We also thank him and welcome him always on the airwaves of Voice of the Arabs. Thank you Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you very much and I welcome you once again.

[Al-Aswad] Thank you dear listeners. This is Muhammad al-Aswad from Sanaa.

Comments on Military Option

NC2405151094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 May 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, in Sanaa, by an unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning in fraternal Yemen, we would like to learn about the situation in your country in light of the escalated fighting between the north and the south.

[Al-Iryani] First, I would like to state that the media, which is talking about the struggle between the north and the south, does not know the nature of the situation. Nevertheless, I will try to answer this question.

[Correspondent] In other words, do you agree with me that it is a war between brothers?

[Al-Iryani] A war between brothers, yes certainly, but not a war between the north and the south. The brothers, unfortunately, are fighting in one house, in one room. But I still claim that it is not a war between the north and the south. The latest developments of the situation have been that—and I quote language used by the media—joint northern and southern forces are heading toward Hadhramaut to topple the al-Mukalla republic declared by 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Perhaps this is an answer to the language used by the media. Joint northern and southern forces, specific brigades—and among these brigades, which the media calls southern, are the 'Abbas Brigade and the Hunayshan Brigade, as well as some brigades from the north—are all advancing jointly toward Hadhramaut to topple the al-Mukalla republic declared by 'Ali Salim al-Bid. These are the latest developments in the situation.

[Correspondent] Do we understand from this that the northern forces have stopped advancing toward Aden?

[Al-Iryani] No, no. The situation in Aden is unique and needs special consideration. The Aden Governorate has over 400,000 innocent citizens: women, children, elderly, and men. The fighters there number only in the hundreds. We do not want these few hundred to be the cause of thousands of Aden residents' death. This is why the Aden front needs special consideration. Our advance to Hadhramaut is taking place with joint forces—as I said earlier quoting the media, northern and southern forces—to topple the al- Mukalla republic. They will start at Saywun and then head toward al-Mukalla.

[Correspondent] But so far, the fighting has targeted civilians. We have learned that a missile fell on Sanaa yesterday and that a number of civilians died in it.

[Al-Iryani] First, I wish to confirm that the number of deaths in the capital, Sanaa, is three times more than the number in Aden Governorate.

[Correspondent] Do we understand from this that ...

[Al-Iryani interrupting] There is a great deal of speculation in the number of deaths in Aden. Not a single civilian district of Aden was targeted.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim, do we understand from what you have just said that there is no intention on the part of northern troops to strike at Aden with Scud missiles?

[Al-Iryani] I assure you that this will not happen. Three missiles with a range shorter than a Scud were fired at Aden airport. We cannot shell innocent people in Aden with a missile, a cannon, or a tank. The criminal secessionists, however, insist on hitting the civilians, particularly in Sanaa, so as to give the impression that a civil war is afoot and that civilians are paying the price.

[Correspondent] We would like you to update us on the situation from your side. Do you plan any political moves? We know that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has sent messages to a number of Arab and foreign leaders.

[Al-Iryani] Let me tell you that the secessionists have only a handful of supporters on the outskirts of the Aden Governorate. They have no military power. There are no front lines in any part of Yemen, except for the handful of supporters who have dug their heels on the outskirts of Aden.

[Correspondent] This is the military situation as you see it?

[Al-Iryani] I assure you that this is the true military situation. You journalists used to talk about northern and southern troops. There were supposed to be two southern brigades and three northern ones. All these brigades are now heading to take over Hadhramaut. This means that all the fronts have crumbled. There are no military forces in Hadhramaut. I assure you, there are no brigades there, because these are the brigades that were positioned there in the first place. There is no resistance left except for the remnants entrenched on Aden's outskirts. As I said, Aden has its special status.

[Correspondent] This means that there are no southern forces left in Hadhramaut.

[Al-Iryani] Correct. These forces withdrew to Shabwah, Abyan, and Aden and no longer present a problem. Most of these forces are now on the side of the legitimacy.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that Aden is no longer a military target?

[Al-Iryani] As you know, military and political considerations are linked. We are giving priority right now to political considerations until we see what happens. But its elimination as a military target, I think it does not make sense.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that dialogue and a political solution are possible and that you are ready to seek them?

[Al-Iryani] Yes, yes, yes, yes.

[Correspondent] Even with the secessionists in the south?

[Al-Iryani] Yesterday, the public attorney pressed charges against 16 Yemeni Socialist Party members. This decision was followed by a declaration of general amnesty. The others [southern officials] were called upon to take part in dialogue in the framework of the Republic of Yemen and its constitution.

[Correspondent] What is your next step in light of the international reaction to the secession of the south from Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] As we said repeatedly, any dealing or sympathy with those secessionists will be considered a hostile act against the Yemeni people.

[Correspondent] Has it not come to your knowledge that a certain country is about to recognize what has been announced as southern Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] I assure you that such a step has not been pondered at all, except by the other wretches in the Republic of Somaliland.

[Correspondent] Do we understand from this that the Republic of Yemen is proposing dialogue and political settlement in place of military option?

[Al-Iryani] The military option ... [pauses] It is possible (?in the city of Aden). As for the other fronts, there is no more fighting.

[Correspondent] By other fronts, do you mean Hadhramaut?

[Al-Iryani] I mean the fronts that saw action, in Abyan, Shabwah, and al-Dali'. For the sake of civilians' safety, political settlement is an option.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that a political solution is a possibility?

[Al-Iryani] Yes, before we are forced to consider the military option.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that marching on Aden involves special considerations that are not ...

[Al-Iryani, interrupting] Yes, and this is what I told you in the beginning of this interview. But these special considerations are not going to last forever. As you know, military options are not forever. Hours make a difference.

[Correspondent] Why have you taken this position at this very moment?

[Al-Iryani] Because we do not want... [pauses] because it is a populated area, as I told you. The rest of the areas that saw military clashes were quite distant from populated areas.

[Correspondent] We thought, if you excuse me, that a military option was your first priority. Now, it seems that you are talking about a political option and dialogue.

[Al-Iryani] It is not true that anyone in Sanaa has ever rejected political dialogue.

Wrapup of Reaction to al-Bid Secession Attempt Noted

Reform Grouping Rejects Comments

JN2405065394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The Higher Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping has issued the following statement.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God who says: There is the type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle thee, and he calls God to witness about what is in his heart, yet is he the most contentious of enemies. When he turns his back, his aim everywhere is to spread mischief through the earth and destroy crops and cattle. But God loveth not mischief. When it is said to him, 'Fear God,' he is led by arrogance to more crime. Enough for him is Hell, an evil bed indeed to lie on. [Koranic verse]

God's peace and blessing be upon the seal of prophets and messengers, our Lord Muhammad, and on his family and companions.

Esteemed Yemeni people all over unified Yemen: The sons of Yemen are now celebrating the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the unity state and the proclamation of the Yemeni Republic on 22 May 1990. On that day, the Yemenis realized their dream and great objective for which they had offered huge sacrifices until God ordained its realization by the merger of the two parts of Yemen and reuniting the one Yemeni family to start building a unified homeland, having removed all forms of oppression, despotism, chaos, and displacement and freed the homeland from the captivity of the atheist, destructive communist ideas. Those ideas had been imposed by evil elements on a precious and dear part of our beloved Yemeni land for quarter of a century, during which our people suffered humiliation and disgrace.

Then the dawn of unity broke, heralding an end to a dark night. Thus, the Yemenis enjoyed the dividends of unity under a political regime that is based on the principles of shura, democracy, and political pluralism.

While the Yemeni people were celebrating the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the unity, the elements of apostasy and secession insisted on invoking the hateful past and setting the clock back to the time of division and fragmentation of the homeland through al-Bid's secessionist announcement.

This announcement has clearly revealed the truth about 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his clique and exposed their secessionist bent and their outright hostility to the people's unity, stability, and progress.

The al-Bid's secessionist announcement has proven beyond any shadow of a doubt the truthfulness of the pronouncements of the state's legitimate institutions and bodies to everybody at home and abroad that the crisis has been, all along, a confrontation between constitutional, popular, and unionist legitimacy and a rebellious, secessionist clique. Consequently, this places all the segments of society—parties, organizations, and masses, including the unionists in the Socialist Party—before their true responsibilities toward this heretic announcement and to stand firmly behind the national, unionist ranks, without any hesitation, leniency, procrastination, or excuses.

Having examined this traitorous announcement with a high sense of national responsibility; and out of its concern about the higher interests of the sons of unified Yemen, the Higher Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping condemns and rejects this traitorous announcement that has no legitimacy whatsoever and no constitutional or legal foundation. This announcement is totally null and is deemed high treason and a violation of the Constitution and an infringement on the country's sovereignty, stability, unity, and the higher interest of the Yemeni people. In addition, the announcement was made by someone who does not have the right to issue such an announcement and who has no legitimacy. He is also on the run and his whereabouts is unknown because he is being pursued by the legitimate authorities.

Based on this, confronting this announcement is a legitimate national duty and a religious duty to all the sons of the people and the legitimate institutions. These institutions are responsible for discharging their duties. They bear responsibility for protecting the territory of the Yemeni Republic and safeguarding its unity. These institutions are carrying out these important duties, along with the sons of the people. It is the cause of the entire homeland and all the people.

The Higher Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping extends its thanks and appreciation for all the brotherly and friendly countries that support Yemeni unity, since this unity is a major factor of stability in this vital region in which most countries have major interests, such as resources and waterways.

We are certain that these countries will not pay attention to the secessionist announcement of al-Bid and his gang, since these countries must realize that this act is hostile to the Yemeni people and that it is a serious precedent that will extend to most fraternal and other countries.

We wonder: What hope will remain for our Arab nation to achieve unity when it sees a unified people being fragmented?

We also denounce some media characterization of what is happening in Yemen as something between north and south, when it is, in reality, between the authority of a state that is member of all Arab and world organizations and an abominable clique that thinks its selfish interests require secession.

We think the defense of Yemeni unity is an Arab and Islamic responsibility first and then a Yemeni responsibility. We are confident, therefore, that all fraternal and friendly nations will side with the one, unified Yemeni people and their will and stability and elected constitutional institutions.

We appeal to our unyielding people to side with the legitimate authority and its Armed Forces and to be one rank in this situation and remain vigilant until victory is complete, God willing, by destroying the secessionist clique. On that day, shall the believers rejoice, with the help of God. He gives victory to whom He will, and He is exalted in might, most merciful. It is the promise of God. Never does God fail from His promise, but most men know not. [Koranic verse]

Issued by the Higher Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping on 12 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 23 May 1994

YSP Parliamentary Bloc Urges Unity

JN2405143494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] A number of the members of the parliamentary bloc representing the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] have issued a statement in which they reiterated their strong and firm adherence to Yemeni unity as the fate of our people, stressing that no individual, group, or political force can encroach on this unity. They condemned the sedition ignited by the rebellious gang of apostasy in the YSP leadership among the sons of the one people. The members of the YSP parliamentary bloc also denounced the secession declaration, affirming its political illegitimacy. They considered this declaration a crime and high treason against our Yemeni people.

The YSP parliamentary bloc reiterated their adherence to constitutional legitimacy based on the results of the parliamentary elections held on 27 April 1993.

GPCGC Condemns 'Rash' Action

JN2405064394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The General People's Congress General Committee [GPCGC] has held an emergency meeting under GPC Assistant Secretary General 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani at the end of which it issued the following statement:

Our Yemeni people and the Arab and Islamic nation were distressed when the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] under 'Ali Salim al-Bid issued its ill-fated secessionist declaration.

The GPCGC vehemently condemns this treasonous, foolhardy, and rash action and views al-Bid's secessionist declaration only two hours after the implementation of the decision by the joint meeting of the Council of Ministers and the Speakership of the House of Representatives to halt all military operations as another scandal by this deviationist gang, and as the gloomy end, and the resounding collapse of the last of its fragmentation and partitioning illusions and dreams. This is because it flagrantly deviated from national consensus, the popular will, and from the deeply-rooted ideological, historical, and national constants of our people, and because it became involved in the conspiracy to fragment the homeland's unity and engage the country in sectarian, provincial, and tribal disputes.

While condemning and strongly rejecting this criminal action, the GPCGC supports and blesses all the unity steps, the courageous sovereign decisions, and the responsible historic and national stands that were adopted by the leaders of the higher constitutional bodies, with at their head brother Lieutenant General

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. At the same time, it emphasizies to our Armed Forces the need to tighten the siege on the dens of this gang, to pursue its corrupt symbols, to stalk them wherever they may be, and to expeditiously arrest them and bring them to trial so that they may receive the just punishment for all the atrocities and the reprehensible fascist crimes they have committed against our people and homeland.

The GPCGC highly values the victories and the great heroic feats the sons of our Armed Forces and Public Security daily record and which they baptize with costly blood in all the locations of honor and dignity in defense of unity, and to protect the democratic achievements and the elected legitimate institutions. The GPCGC would like here to note its great appreciation of all the honest soldiers and officers of unity who were misled by the gang of apostasy and secession but who, after becoming aware of the reality of the vile conspiracy, rushed to join the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, refusing to obey the orders of this isolationist and renegade gang within the YSP.

The GPCGC emphasizes that it is still confident that the unity leaders within the YSP are capable of confronting the secessionist trend within the party, of liquidating it, and of clearly supporting the unity state and its institutions. The GPCGC also urges all our people with their national and social forces, their political parties and organizations, their popular organizations, and their trade unions to stand as one rank in support of unity and to safeguard democracy and constitutional legitimacy and all the civilized achievements of our people. It also calls for mobilizing our masses potential and our homeland's resources to confront the schemes of this unjust and criminal gang and protect the security, stability, and independence of the homeland.

The GPCGC praises all the fraternal stands and sincere sentiments that many of our Arab brothers and friends in the world have expressed when they reiterated their support for the unity of our people and for constitutional legitimacy, and their concern not to interfere in Yemen's domestic affairs. From this premise, the GPCGC warns against any contact or dealings with this gang and views the recognition of this fictitious and secessionist entity by any fraternal or friendly country as an enmical act against our people, an infringement on their sovereignty and independence, and a blatant and rejected interference in their domestic affairs.

The GPCGC is confident of our masses ability, the capability of our Armed Forces, the alertness of our security organs, and the cohesion of our national ranks to score decisive victory on all the secessionist agents to obey God's saying: And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevails justice and faith in God.

Issued by the General People's Congress General Committee, Sanaa, 23 May 1994

Liberation Front: Action 'High Treason'

JN2405155094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1506 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Liberation Front Party has cabled Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and members of the council, the speaker and members of the House of Representatives Speakership Council, and the Cabinet, to denounce the secession declared by the war criminal and traitor al-Bid and his clique. The message dubbed the move a grievous crime and high treason as well as being in clear violation of the popularly-endorsed constitution. The secession was also described as a brazen deviation from the aims and principles of the Yemeni revolution for which droves of martyrs have fallen. This criminal action, the cable read, is the latest in a series of acts of sabotage, intrigues, and treason typical of the secessionist circle in the Socialist Party.

Revolutionary Democratic Party Comments

JN2405154394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1458 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Revolutionary Democratic Party [RDP] has condemned al-Bid's secession declaration. The party said in a statement that it is considered a blatant violation of the Constitution of our Republic of Yemen and the legitimacy announced on 27 April 1993. The statement notes the RDP's rejection of all calls for secession and its support for and call on the forces of constitutional legitimacy not to be lenient with this rancorous separatist clique. The party said that its support for the forces of constitutional legitimacy stems from the party's adherence to Yemeni unity, which is considered the result of the efforts and struggle of all honest Yemeni strugglers. The party stressed that its stand is firm and clear in terms of safeguarding the national constants, particularly unity, democracy, and the achievements of the 16 September and 24 October revolutions.

The RDP's statement urges brothers and friends to stand at the side of the legitimate leadership to preserve these achievements, particularly Yemeni unity. The statement notes that al-Bid's criminal attempts to destroy Aden and some southern and eastern governorates are a continuation of the destruction inflicted on brave Aden in the January events [reference to 13 January 1986] to satisfy his destructive whims and those of his clique.

The statement urges all national and political forces and our masses to stand at the side of constitutional legitimacy and its leadership and to render all support for this leadership.

This was issued by the Revolutionary Democratic Party.

U.S. Reaction Noted

JN2405064894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The U.S. State Department yesterday denounced al-Bid's secessionist announcement and called for political dialogue.

According to AFP, State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry said the United States will not reply to al-Bid's Saturday announcement as it does not consider such basic issues can be decided while battles are continuing. The spokesman added that the immediate result of the secession announcement will be that of perpetuating battles and increasing the number of victims and the suffering of civilians.

Opposition Leader Reaffirms Support for Unity

PM2005155894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 94 p2

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Al-Jawi: The Fighting in Yemen is a Belated Dowry for the Preservation of Unity"]

[Excerpt] London—Yemeni political sources do not rule out the possibility that the next 24 hours will witness some political developments which might overturn the current military balance between the northerners and the southerners. The sources did not disclose details of the discussions at the emergency meeting of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] which was held the day before yesterday and paved the way for yesterday's meeting, but they expected important decisions to be made that would strengthen the steadfastness of the southern forces on all fronts to halt the advance of the northern forces and prevent them from controlling the main roads leading to Aden.

'Umar al-Jawi, secretary general of the opposition's Yemeni Unionist Grouping, who supports the YSP's position, however, dismissed the claim that the Higher Salvation Council announced in Aden three days ago was a government substitute in the south. He reaffirmed his support for the preservation of Yemen's unity despite the deepening military crisis.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Jawi said that the opposition urged the rest of the political parties to support the initiative which aims at stopping the war and "rescuing the country from the daily pools of blood."

He added that "the signatories to the agreement seek to impose a broad political reconciliation between all the conflicting sides, parties, and rivals at home and abroad."

He emphasized that the opposition is capable of achieving that "despite the terrible artillery shelling, explosions, and killing." He said: "We will endeavor to convince the General People's Congress [GPC], which is led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], which is led by House of Representative Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar; but if they reject this initiative, they would clearly be making a mistake and their aim would be to continue the war."

Al-Jawi reaffirmed that "there is no longer north and south, but a united Yemen, and those who promote secessionist talk in fact want to abort the plan for the rescue of the homeland."

Referring to the formation of the Higher Salvation Council, he said that "branch councils will be formed anywhere in Yemen where these parties have a presence, and the participating parties will comply with the same agreement and with the resolutions and directives issued by the Higher Council and based on the Pledge and Accord Document."

He saw the grinding battles between the northerners and southerners in Yemen as "the belated dowry for unity we had expected, but it is by no means a divorce. It is a reconstruction of unity." [passage omitted]

Former Leader Says Union Failed To Meet 'Aspirations'

NC2205200794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 May 94

[Telephone interview with former south Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, in Damascus, by Shadiyah Riyad, in Cairo, "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Riyad] Mr. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former south Yemeni president, on the fourth anniversary of the Yemeni union, the Yemeni brothers are going through a bitter conflict and fierce battles during which each side is trying to destroy the other. Why did they unite and then fight each other and separate?

[Muhammad] First, I wish to congratulate the fraternal Egyptian people, our Yemeni people, and the people of our Arab and Islamic nation on the blessed 'Id al-Adha. It pains me that this celebration should come amid secession and domestic strife in Yemen. It is true that the union is four years old. On this glorious occasion we were supposed to offer achievements to the Yemeni people, who made sacrifices for the sake of unity, instead of giving them this separation and infighting. [passage omitted]

Obviously, some mistakes were made during the union experience. When the union was established power was shared by two parties. Later during the transitional period, agreed upon in 1990, power was shared by three parties in contradiction to the united country's Constitution. Furthermore, no attention was paid to the public's concerns, affairs, and aspirations. The people pinned high hopes on the union, which was expected to end a painful chapter, and to attain their great aims of development and prosperity. No attention was paid to the people's quality of life, security, stability, and economic development. No efforts were made to enhance the unified country's status. No attention was paid to the question of security, stability, and national unity. No attention was paid to the issue of regional security and stability.

Naturally, I cautioned against such negative attitudes and errors from the start. I alerted Yemen's political leaders to this fact and the serious consequences and dangers of the negative attitudes and errors made during the transitional period and afterward. These errors should have been avoided by drawing up a strategic plan of what the unified state wished to accomplish. I stressed more than once that the unified state must have a strategic perspective of the country's future.

Late last year I warned of the danger of domestic strife and separatism unless institutions and commands were unified. I urged that an understanding be reached among the political leaders and between the leaders of the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. No attention was paid to this and the leadership was divided between Sanaa and Aden. The two sides subsequently engaged in media campaigns. This media escalation—added to other conflicts, quarrels, and assassinations—finally caused the situation to erupt. [passage omitted]

Al-Zandani Visits Wounded in Hospitals on 'Id al-Adha

JN2305060394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] On the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth national anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, Presidential Council member Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani visited the heroes of the battle in defense of unity in some of the capital's hospitals who have been wounded on the various axes as a result of their heroic confrontation of the forces of apostasy and secession.

The brother Presidential Council member visited the military hospital in Sanaa, the al-Thawrah General Hospital, and the al-Jumhuri Training Hospital. He also visited the ward allocated for Somali refugees.

While visiting the patients, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani conveyed to them greetings from the Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the members of the Presidential Council, and their wishes for speedy recovery. He also thanked the Health Ministry, the military medical services, and the doctors.

Aden Accuses Jordan of 'Clear Partiality' Toward Sanaa

PM2305105394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Southerners Accuse Jordan of Partiality in Favor of Sanaa"]

[Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An Adeni citizen who did not wish to be named has stated that the Jordanian authorities have turned back a large number of Yemeni passengers, including many women and children, who arrived in Amman via YEMDA Airlines from Aden the day before yesterday. Officials at Queen 'Alya' international airport said that their decision to deny the Yemeni citizens entry was made "on the instructions of higher authorities." He said that "that was clear partiality in favor of Sanaa."

Eyewitnesses at the airport said that the YEMDA office director confirmed to the Jordanian passport authorities that the Yemeni nationals had return tickets and had guarantees from the company for a week's stay in Jordan, but the authorities rejected that. YEMDA sources in Amman confirmed this and said that the passengers returned to Aden after being denied access to the transit area from where they could have continued their trip to Damascus.

A responsible south Yemeni source has stated that the Jordanian authorities acted in that way, and also turned back Colonel Naji 'Ali Naji, director of the Yemeni defense minister's office and member of the Joint Military Committee who had arrived in Amman for treatment, but at the same time they sent six planeloads of medical aid to Sanaa, thereby indicating alignment with the northern leadership in the current conflict in Yemen.

Airlines, Ships Warned Against Using Southern Ports

JN2305155094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1531 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Transportation Ministry has stated that the Transportation Ministry wishes to draw the attention of all airlines and maritime shipping companies to the fact that the airspace over and the waters around the airports and seaports in the following areas: Aden, Hadhramaut, and al-Mahrah, are military zones. Consequently, flying, sailing, landing at airports, or docking at seaports in these areas may expose their aircraft and vessels to danger. The Government of the Republic of Yemen will not be responsible in any way for any damage or losses any company may incur as a result of violating these regulations.

Issued by the Transportation Ministry.

Statement Ridiculed

EA2405125094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] A military source at the command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has ridiculed a statement issued by a so-called responsible source at the Transport Ministry and broadcast by Sanaa radio this evening. The source stressed that the al-Ahmar gang is now in a difficult military position because it is incapable of threatening any of the air or sea ports of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. He confirmed that the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen are in total control of all the harbors and airports in this Republic and that they can fully guarantee the security and safety of these harbors and airports and provide the necessary services for ships and aircraft which call there.

The military source commented on the statement by a responsible source at the Transport Ministry to the effect that the Sanaa government is not responsible for damage or losses that might occur to any foreign company. The military source said that the government led by the al-Ahmar gang is no more than a smuggling and terrorist gang. It cannot ensure the safety of any foreign company just as it is incapable of protecting the security of the country and its citizens. The source concluded by saying there are a number of companies and individuals who have been subjected to looting, plundering, assassination, and kidnapping before the eyes and ears of the security forces of that corrupt authority.

Pilots From South Urged To Join 'Legitimacy'

JN2305155794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1532 GMT 23 May 93

["Appeal by the defense minister;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Out of our concern for the lives of the misled and helpless pilots and those who are under pressure, and out of our concern for the safety of the remaining warplanes that are still being manipulated by the rebellious, apostate, and secessionist gang—being state-owned planes whose prices have been paid by the people—we call on all those pilots not to obey the orders issued to them by the rebellious, secessionist gang and to fly their planes to any airport under the control of the legitimate authority to ask for landing permission and to join their brothers in the Air Force. They should be confident that they will receive the same treatment that their brothers are receiving in terms of rights and duties. It is better for them to be at the side of the people, unity, and constitutional legitimacy so that they will not be filled with regret after it is useless to be so.

[Signed] Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the defense minister

North Reportedly Preparing for 'Major Offense'

NC2305165194 London MBC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Diplomatic sources in London were quoted today as saying that north Yemen is massing its troops to launch a major offensive against Aden.

Reports say fierce fighting is now taking place between the northern and southern forces to control the oil-rich southern governorate of Shabwah.

Though Aden denied the fall of Shabwah's capital 'Ataq to the northern forces, northern officials said their forces took control of the 'Ataq military base. They added that Shabwah Governorate, including all its military installations, is now under Sanaa's control.

Despite appeals by several Arab leaders to Yemneni leaders to stop the fighting, Sanaa asserted that the continuation of war is now inevitable.

Shabwah Situation Detailed

NC2305174594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Clashes in Yemen today took place mainly in the oil-rich governorate of Shabwah. Foreign correspondents who visited al-Mukalla area in Hadhramaut said the southern forces are reinforcing their positions in Shabwah and that military aircraft are flying over the governorate, parts of which the northern forces claimed earlier they had captured. Civilians in Hadhramaut have been called up to assist the forces in Shabwah.

Meanwhile, political sources in Sanna say President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is working on achieving swift military gains to pressure, to the greatest possible degree, the south should a cease-fire be reached.

Sanaa Notes Successes

JN2405060094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

With support and success granted by Almighty God to the soldiers of right—the soldiers protecting unity and freedom and safeguarding democracy and constitutional legitimacy—and under the growing high morale of the glorious brave fighters in the valiant Armed Forces units and their increasing confidence in their combat capability and high efficiency in the decisive confrontation of the gangs of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party in the various axes and sectors, the forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy have pursued their implementation of all combat missions in the battlefields, liquidating the secessionist pockets and dens and inflicting large losses in the weapons, vehicles, and equipment of the gangs of the mutinous secessionist forces. Our forces seized large quantities of military hardware at the Lahij-Abyan axis. Combat and combing operations also achieved great accomplishments at the Shabwah axis. The forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy purged a number of subversive pockets in the Shabwah Governorate and seized two Sukhoi planes at 'Ataq airport, in addition to a number of tanks and artillery pieces and diverse military hardware.

The Faysal Rashid Brigade for air defense with missiles joined the forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy with all its commanders, personnel, and military hardware in an awe-inspiring situation stressing the faith of all Yemenis in their unity and national loyalty to the constitutional legitimacy. The Armed Forces units, the forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy, which were advancing from al-Dali'ah and al-Mahfid at the Abyan axis, converged with and joined the forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy in control of the Shabwah Governorate. This reinforced the stable situation at this axis.

Aden Disputes Claims

EA2405115094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In Shabwah Governorate, our Armed Forces have continued, with the effective and decisive support of our Air Force, their determined battle against the hostile forces on whom they have inflicted strong blows. The masses effectively support the Armed Forces in that brave governorate which Sanaa claims to control. It is completely ridiculous for the al-Ahmar gang in Sanaa to claim that it shot down one of our fighter planes in Shabwah, just as it claimed yesterday that it downed a plane in Abyan. Perhaps tomorrow, it will claim it has shot down another plane in Hadramawt or al-Mahrah.

This is in keeping with its particular misleading style of lies and deception. Our brave Armed Forces, which are engaged in ferocious defensive battles for the 27th successive day against the al-Ahmar forces which planned to seize the southern and eastern governorates within a few hours or in a day or two at the most, are still quite capable today. The defense forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, with their unbending strength, have the capacity to cleanse our pure territory from the filth of the al-Ahmar family and their clique and to teach this gang of warfare, terrorism, and criminality a deserving lesson. Many a small group has overwhelmed a bigger one [Koran], with God's will.

Further on Shabwah Situation

JN2405133894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1222 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpts] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

With support and success granted by Almighty God to the soldiers of right—the soldiers protecting unity and freedom and safeguarding democracy and constitutional legitimacy—and under the growing high morale of the glorious brave fighters in the valiant Armed Forces and their increasing confidence in their combat capability and high efficiency in the decisive confrontation of the gangs of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party in the various axes and sectors, the forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy have pursued their implementation of all combat missions in the battlefields, liquidating the secessionist pockets and dens and inflicting huge losses in the weaponry, vehicles, and equipment of the gangs of the mutinous secessionist forces. [passage omitted contained in referent item]

Moreover, the heroic and courageous hawks of the air in the forces of both unity and protection of the constitutional legitimacy carried out with precise and high efficiency and with devastating blows the missions assigned to them in a number of sectors where the gangs of rebellion and secession showed some resistance.

On various axes, the units of our Armed Forces are still receiving officers, noncommissioned officers [NCO's], and soldiers joining the ranks of the forces of unity and protection of constitutional legitimacy and declaring their condemnation of the secessionist and rebellious gang which revealed its blatant and destructive hostility to the people, the homeland, and Yemen's present and future.

These officers, NCO's, and soldiers also stressed their principled and courageous standing in the trench of the solid defense of unity and of protecting both the constitutional legitimacy and all the achievements and gains of the Republic of Yemen.

The forces of both unity and the legitimate and constitutional democracy continue to carry out their missions in terms of chasing the enemies of both the people and their unity—the despots of apostasy and secession as well as the gangs mortgaged to their inevitable destiny. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: If ye will help (the cause) of God, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly. [koranic verse]

Missile From South Reportedly Crashes in Sanaa

NC2305192594 Paris AFP in English 1920 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 23 (AFP)—A southern missile crashed into the Yemeni capital Monday, causing several casualties, the official news agency SABA' said.

The agency, run by the north, said the missile landed in a residential district of Sanaa.

Aden Defense Ministry Denies Attack

EA2405084094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry has stated that in order to justify its criminal action of directing missiles on Aden, which killed tens of women, children, and old men, the al-Ahmar gang media have announced that a missile was fired on Sanaa this evening. The Defense Ministry in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] categorically denies responsibility for this act.

Further on Defense Ministry Denial

EA2405104594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The Command of the Defense Ministry has announced the following:

In a misleading attempt to justify the atrocious and criminal acts embarked upon by the separatist al-Ahmar gang and the terrorist forces in Sanaa who launched rockets against peaceful citizens in Aden's civilian quarters which resulted in atrocious massacres of which scores of people—children, women, and the elderly—were victims, the north's news media have announced that a rocket was launched against Sanaa this evening [as heard]. They fabricated these explosions as they have become accustomed to fabricating many things to counter their own cheap acts and activities.

The Ministry of Defense in the Democratic Republic of Yemen categorically denies any responsibility for such an act. Citizens are not a target for any military action. It now appears that this gang is no longer able to do anything except to direct destruction against every house in Yemen. This is because it sparked off the war against the people.

The Ministry of Defense in Aden warns against such criminal acts and misleading justifications. The lives of the citizens will not be as cheap as the advocates of war and crime believe. They have plunged thousands of people, even minor ones, into a dirty war which does not serve anybody except their narrow and selfish interests.

Large Losses Reported

JN2405062794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] A military source has stated the following: Acting treacherously and cowardly, the gang of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party leadership yesterday evening perpetrated a new heinous crime against the innocent citizens and civilians in Sanaa and other cities. At 2040 [1740 GMT], the spiteful, secessionist gang fired a missile at a densely-populated residential area in Sanaa, inflicting large losses on the citizens and their houses and property. These losses have not yet been counted.

This cowardly and treacherous action reveals the black, hidden grudge this criminal gang harbors against the sons of our people, who, along with the heroes of our brave Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, are valiantly and firmly confronting and foiling their criminal secessionist scheme against the homeland and its unity and democratic march. The source stressed that the cowardly criminals will not escape punishment and both the people and the Armed Forces will inflict just punishment on them.

Council Member Visits Bombing Site

JN2405152194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani this morning visited the site hit by a missile fired yesterday evening by the gang of apostasy and secession. The missile fell in a neighborhood of Sanaa, killing or wounding a number of civilians and destroying a number of inhabited houses.

'Abd-al-Ghani was accompanied by brothers Najib Ghanim, the minister of public health; Husayn [surname indistinct], the mayor of Sanaa; Mutahhar Zaki, under secretary at the Ministry of Information; and Dr. Ahmad Makki, under secretary at the Ministry of Public Health.

The Presidential Council member and his companions were briefed on the material and human losses inflicted by the missile. They expressed their vigorous condemnation of this criminal attack that targeted defenseless civilians and their property.

He told the local, Arab, and world media that the Yemeni people will reply to these criminal acts, and will not show patience toward the secessionist move.

The brother Presidential Council member and his companions then visited the wounded at the Republican Hospital and inspected the structural damage to the hospital itself, including operating rooms.

Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani regretted the consequences of this criminal act that targeted a humanitarian facility in the capital. He later visited the General Revolution Hospital and called on the victims of the attack.

We beseech God the almighty to speed up their recovery.

The Ministry of Public Health directed that the patients be afforded all the necessary medical and other services.

Aden Military Communique Notes Victories

EA2305195194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 May 94

["Military communique No. 25" issued by the Armed Forces Command of the Democratic Republic of Yemen; place and date not given]

[Text] For the 27th consecutive day our brave armed forces have continued their heroic resistance and legendary steadfastness against the forces of invasion and aggression belonging to the adventurous and bloody gang of al-Ahmar.

Today, the combat operations of our forces were marked not only by firm and strong defense but by inflicting crushing blows against the hostile forces on all the battlefronts. Today, our forces inflicted killing blows against the invading forces in Abyan, where our fighter planes piloted by the courageous Air Eagles, defenders of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, successfully attacked the positions of the hostile forces and inflicted crushing blows against their supply lines. The rest of our fighters continued to inflict more human and material losses on the enemy ranks, estimated at hundreds of dead and wounded. A large number of military machines and equipment was destroyed.

In the al-Anad Karish zone, our armed forces won great victories and managed not only to regain control over this zone but inflicted on the hostile forces heavy human and material losses. They forced these forces to retreat, with rising numbers of officers and men continuing to surrender to our forces.

Aden Radio: Army 'In Total Control'

EA2405085294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 May 94 (tentative)

[Text] A source in the Armed Forces Command has ridiculed the statement put out by a responsible source in the Transport Ministry broadcast by Sanaa radio this evening. The source said the al-Ahmar gang are in a difficult position now and are accordingly incapable of threatening Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] sea ports and airports. The DRY Armed Forces are in total control of all the Republic's sea ports and airports, and can fully guarantee the security of these seaports and airports and all the services they supply to all ships and aircraft.

Sanaa Commentary 'Secessionist' Gang Fleeing

JN2005070094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0444 GMT 20 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] At last, the secessionist gang fled Aden, thinking that it has left behind it citizens and soldiers as a sacrifice for its salvation from the people's grip. However, the citizens in Aden, and in all adjacent villages and towns, should know that the army of unity does not target citizens and that citizens will not be harmed. This is because the forces of unity protect unity and care for the safety of citizens, who are the objective of unity and whose happiness is sought.

Likewise, misled soldiers and officers should know they will receive much appreciation and respect once they join the forces of legitimacy and stand with them in the trench to defend unity.

Yes, everyone knows this. It has been proven by experience and events. It was confirmed by previous cases in al-Dali', [word indistinct], Shabwah, Abyan, Lahij, Bayhan, and other places. Citizens were safe and enjoyed care and respect.

Every soldier and officer who joined legitimacy enjoyed the care and appreciation of all commanders in the forces of legitimacy and all the noncommissioned officers, officers, and soldiers of the army of unity. This is because they are brothers in arms, comrades in struggle, the shield of the homeland, and the protectors of Yemen. The entire Armed Forces should remain as such, regardless of the attempts made by the enemies of Yemen.

Thus, we can say that the citizens who welcomed and cooperated with the forces of legitimacy, as well as the officers, soldiers, and noncommissioned officers who joined these forces, have infused new blood into the legitimate forces. They have made an important contribution to their advance and their victories. Hence, it is clear to everyone that the gang of secession and apostasy, which left behind citizens, soldiers, and officers as a sacrifice for its salvation from the people's wrath, is demonstrating futile thinking and false delusions. This is because the people's grip will continue to chase the gang wherever it goes, follow it into any den in which it hides, and remove it from any cave to which it may resort. [passage omitted]

Once again we say: Blessed be the steps of the forces of unity pounding the last strongholds of apostasy. Blessed be the hands of the armies of legitimacy uprooting the dens of secessionists. Welcome to the sons of the Armed Forces who were misled by the renegade ones. Welcome to the brothers joining the Armed Forces and the unionists who are biased toward both the trench of legitimacy and the forces of the people and unity. Peace to all citizens in Aden and in all the villages and towns lying on the road of the victorious and trustworthy unionist march.

These citizens will be safe as long as they support justice and legitimacy. They will also be dignified and respected everywhere and always, especially since they are the objective and [word indistinct] of unity. Unity was achieved for them and with their support. This unity will remain. It is for the sake of these citizens and for their pride that the forces of unity are marching against the gangs of apostasy. It is also for the salvation of these citizens that the struggle is continuing against the gangs of secession. Let the citizen be confident of victory [words indistinct] safety. This is because the people's forces are for the people and for their protection. The armies of unity care for the masses of unity throughout great Yemen.

Commentary Urges Southern Forces To Disobey Orders

JN2005094394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0818 GMT 20 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O brother officers and soldiers in the remaining forces still taking orders from war criminal ['Ali Salim] al-Bid and from his secessionist clique in the Yemeni Socialist Party's leadership, O dear brothers, we call on you to resort to both reason and conscience.

We call on you to disavow the falsehoods imposed on you by the gang of apostasy and secession. The members of this gang are pushing you into the crematorium of war against your brothers in the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. They mean only to protect themselves, their sick delusions, and their suspicious schemes designed to return the homeland to the situation that prevailed prior to 22 May 1990.

We urge you to reject the orders of the gang of apostasy and secession. This gang illegally gives orders to the Armed Forces' officers and soldiers. We call on you to carry out your national duty by joining the ranks of the forces of unity and democracy which are defending both Constitutional legitimacy and the interests of both the homeland and people, exactly as was done by thousands of your comrades in arms in various positions.

O dear brothers, we appeal to you to ask yourselves about what you are fighting for, and for what objectives you are aiming the weapons at your brethren. If you are really fighting for Yemeni unity, your natural position is within the ranks of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, the forces of both the people and homeland.

You should aim your guns where they should be aimed: At the secessionist clique in the Socialist Party's leadership that betrayed the cause of unity, rebelled against democracy and constitutional legitimacy, and launched this war between brothers in arms for the sake of its dominating secessionist aspirations.

Why are you aiming your weapons at your brothers who are defending unity and democracy? Why are you killing men, bereaving the women of their husbands, and bereaving the children of their parents? Why are you exposing yourselves to death and creating disasters for your families and kinsfolk? Why are you setting fire to the homeland's achievements and deepening the people's wounds? Why are you demolishing the schools and hospitals and destroying the institutions which serve the people? Are you doing all this for a handful of rebellious secessionists?

O brothers in arms, return to your senses and fear God regarding yourselves, your kinsfolk, and your people's sons. Quickly join the ranks of the Armed Forces, which are defending unity and constitutional legitimacy. The secessionist clique has no chance of victory, now that most governorates are controlled by the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy.

O dear brothers, quickly save yourselves from the dark fate which will be soon the lot of the secessionist clique led by traitor al-Bid. Be as the people expect you to be. Be rightfully and honestly the soldiers of God, the protectors of the homeland, the providers of security to the people, and the builders of life. Always be the defenders of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

Commentary on al-Bid Receiving 'Inevitable Punishment'

JN2305193294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1718 GMT 23 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy's control the al-'Anad Air Base, their liquidation of the rebellious forces of apostasy, treason, and secession in Shabwah, and their seizure of the strategic 'Atiq and its adjacent areas are evidence of the determination of these forces to execute their military tasks. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy should be commended for their concern for saving civilians from the effects of the military clashes with the forces controlled by the supporters of the apostasy and secession gang.

We want to reiterate that the overwhelming victory in Shabwah, and, particularly in 'Atiq—which is considered one of the most important strategic areas purged of the secessionist forces by the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy—is considered an important stride toward ridding the homeland of the secessionists who sold themselves to the devil. We are not exaggerating if we say that the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, which are achieving successive victories, will never hesitate in assuming their military tasks imposed by their faith in God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity and by their loyalty to constitutional legitimacy and democracy, which we accepted as our option to build a new Yemen, the Yemen of progress and prosperity. This is a firm conviction entrenched in the minds of our Armed Forces, who are protecting the homeland and unity and defending constitutional legitimacy. This should also dominate the minds of the remaining men carrying arms in the misled units that are still being moved by the rebellious and secessionist gang against the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy.

Those who are still receiving orders from the gang of apostasy and secession—the gang which declared its secession with impudence and blatant challenge toward the will of people—must realize that they are now considered mercenaries. It would be better for them to stand at the side of unity and people and to defend constitutional legitimacy. The rebellious and secessionist gang, which is receiving money from the enemies of the homeland—in addition to the money they have plundered—is only interested in destroying the gains and achievements of the people, in shedding blood, and spreading death. Then, this gang plans escape with the millions they have plundered to outside the homeland.

Therefore, we urge the units still being controlled by the gang of apostasy and secession to join the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy and to stand where the Yemeni people want them. The units that are still under the control of the scum from the secessionist rebellious clique, should realize that al-Bid and his treacherous rebellious gang—the enemies of the people who declared secession—are playing an agent role and do not care about the consequences. Their imaginary state, which they have proclaimed, is not set up on land or based on legitimacy. This state has no supporters or position from which it can defend its presence.

Thus, the proclamation of a secessionist state is only an illusion. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy and the Yemeni people know how to react to this madness that prompted the forces of mutiny and treason to announce the secession statement of hallucination, which exposed the nature of the gang of apostasy and secession and revealed their hostile objectives against the Yemeni people and their unity.

As we speak today about the ugliest creatures—whom our people have known and who lived among our people, humiliated them, seized the liberties of their sons, desecrated their sanctities, and tampered with their potentials and resources—we urge the sons of beloved Aden, who are suffering from the injustice of the stupid followers of the traitors 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his deviant clique, to wake up. This clique has no concern for the fate of the misled people. If the deviant al-Bid was able to escape from Aden, leaving the misled ones for their dark destiny—if they continue to follow the orders of his clique—he, and his men, will not escape punishment. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy will chase him as well as his clique, which escaped with him to the Hadhramaut Governorate, whose people have suffered from the humiliation and injustice at the hands of the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. The sons of Hadhramaut will never forget the killing of the ulema and the prominent figures in [word indistinct]. Neither will they forget those who were buried alive because they differed with the YSP. The sons of Hadhramaut will stand, in words and deeds, at the side of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy. They know full well that these forces seek the wellbeing of the homeland and its people and the purging of the Yemeni homeland from the filth of the apostasy and secession gang which has become the bitterest enemy of the Yemeni people, their unity, gains, and national achievements. This gang will certainly have its inevitable punishment, and nothing will obstruct the will of God and the patient Yemeni people.

Article Say Unitary State Damaged by War

PM2405151594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 May 94 p9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "War Broke the Unity"]

[Text] One could ask: Will the one united Yemen become two Yemens as it was four years ago?

I believe that that only required a declaration of secession.

Could the secession become legitimate, considering that the prerequisites for the unitary state had been fulfilled and the president acquired legitimacy to govern?

Again, I believe that as the unity decision was a free-choice decision and not an arbitrary decision, the secession was also a free-choice decision and any attempt to impose unity by force would require a great miracle to be carried out and sustained. That was the mistake committed by the Yemenis when they resorted to force to settle their differences. The result was complete divorce. The dispute could have continued for one or two years without secession. Internal differences do occur, particularly in a state still trying to speak the same political common laguage.

We do not know of any political unity in contemporary Arab history that was imposed by force. We exclude annexation and occupation from this. That is why unity in Yemen would never succeed if the parties resort to force because it would then become a case of hegemony which the locals would resist with force as they did in the past.

Some might ask: What about the guarantees offered previously for the fulfillment of unity and reinforcement of the foundations of the unitary state? What happend to these guarantees and how could the Yemeni state's legitimacy be torpedoed?

The legal argument is not always enough, and launching a military war is the weakest legal argument. The unitary state agreement was signed by the two leaders and the two presidents personally, both of whom are still alive. Unity was then approved almost unanimously in a public referendum. The third phase came with the recognition of the unitary state by all the states which had previously recognized the two independent states, including the brothers and neighbors. That state took a fourth step towards securing its legitimacy when it lodged its registration papers with the United Nations as one state with one flag, one representative, and unified laws.

The war, however, has broken the state's legitimacy and weakened its legal value, regardless of the causes which prompted the armies to act. We should here particularly keep in mind that we are talking about a unitary state on paper. In reality, the two states remained as they were before the unity, with two armies, two currencies, and two regimes.

The two sides concentrated on the form, not the substance, of unity. That is why it has taken only two weeks of war to break it, with undeniable popular support.

War within a state trying to be one state cannot be the solution, rather a certain cause of division and enmity.

That is why we cannot understand why a war has been launched without any logical political concept. War will not make the victor popular because war between brothers would mean an insult to the loser but it would not subjugate the loser because he would see the victor as an occupation force and would therefore resist him as such. War cannot be a cane used to break enough heads to get revenge. War has broken unity, not rectified it.

Tariq 'Aziz Criticizes Christopher's Remarks

JN2105205894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stressed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was mistaken on many of the issues that he discussed in his article, which he wrote from Saudi Arabia, published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 28 April. In a reply published by THE NEW YORK TIMES today, Saturday, Tariq 'Aziz explained that the first mistake that Christopher committed was his characterization of the states calling for lifting the siege imposed on Iraq as just some states. The deputy prime minister said that the states calling for a change in the policy on Iraq, particularly the immediate lifting of the economic blockade, include numerous UN Security Council member states, Arab states, and Iraq's neighbors, especially Jordan and Turkey, which are suffering from the blockade imposed on Iraq. He added that the official statements of the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency conflict with Christopher's remarks that Iraq has not complied with its commitments toward the UN Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that the UN Security Council failed to issue its president's traditional statement because the U.S. representative objected to recognizing the progress that has been made by Iraq. Meanwhile, he noted, other UN Security Council member states, including three permanent members, insisted on the need to recognize this progress. He indicated that Mr. Christopher's assessments do not represent the viewpoints of the majority of the UN Security Council member states.

Tariq 'Aziz called on the U.S. secretary of state to check the U.S. State Department's records to learn of the U.S. intervention to prevent Kurdish leaders from signing an agreement with the Iraqi Government in the summer of 1991. He explained that the Iraqi Government agreed with six Kurdish parties, including those led by Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, on a comprehensive agreement for autonomy in the Kurdish region. However, Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state under James Baker and Warren Christopher, prevented Talabani from signing the agreement on the pretext that such an agreement would bolster the government of President Saddam Husayn.

Tariq 'Aziz added that the U.S. State Department's records testify to those facts. In addition, all partners to this event are still alive.

In his reply to Christopher's article, Tariq 'Aziz said that the comprehensive blockade imposed on Iraq since 1990 has left Iraq with no choice but to depend on itself, especially with respect to food production. Therefore, all national resources have been mobilized to implement development projects in the marshlands area in southern Iraq. He explained that specialized U.S., British, Netherlands, and Russian companies studied such projects as early as 1950 to reclaim 1.5 million hectares.

In a separate development, the deputy prime minister stressed that a clear progress has been made in the recent UN Security Council review of the embargo imposed on Iraq. In statements to the director of the Detroit expatriates television aired today, Saturday, Tariq 'Aziz said that there is currently a clear majority at the UN Security Council adopting a fair position. He explained that the U.S. position at the UN Security Council uses allegations that do not conform with reality. He said this is a position that does not enjoy absolute British support, but a limited support for reasons that have nothing to do with UN Security Council resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz expressed confidence that the majority of the international community now calls for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq. He said that majority of the UN Security Council member states, which reflect the majority of the world public opinion, have moved toward lifting the blockade. He explained that the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait worked vigorously before the recent UN Security Council review to prevent the council from recognizing the facts. Despite the funds that they have spent and despite their false allegations, 'Aziz added, the majority of the UN Security Council member states have adopted positive trend.

Relying on facts that he sensed during his recent visit to the United Nations, the deputy prime minister expressed optimism. He said that after the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their leadership and after facts have become known to world public opinion, the call for lifting the blockade is now stronger than ever before.

On the situation in northern Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz told the expatriates television that it is an anomalous situation imposed by foreign powers on our Kurdish people and in which armed groups took part. He said that those groups are behaving irresponsibly and without any consideration for the interests of our Kurdish people or for the general national interests. He explained that the fighting raging between the Barzani and Talabani groups has resulted in hundreds of deaths and in disrupting life and public services. Meanwhile, he said, foreign U.S. and Iranian interventions are taking place, in addition to the Turkish air raids on villages in the area.

The deputy prime minister stressed that the northern part of the homeland must return to the homeland, and that the authority, law, and security must return to the region which flourished under autonomy and under the national Iraqi leadership.

Returns From New York

JN2205172194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad from New York this evening.

During his visit to the United Nations, Tariq 'Aziz held extensive consultations with the ambassadors of the

Security Council's member states, particularly those of the permanent member states, on the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with the Austrian foreign minister in Vienna on his way to New York.

Extending Embargo Termed 'U.S.-Zionist Wager'

JN1905085194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that renewing and perpetuating the unfair embargo on Iraq will continue to be a U.S.-Zionist wager blessed by the humiliated henchmen in the region in order to peddle evil and suspicious U.S.-Zionist schemes.

In an article today, the paper, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Regardless of this renewal and continuation of the embargo, Washington knows well that Iraq is not an easy prey and that Iraq will continue to be a thorn that bleeds the enemies' soft spot, deprives them of sleep, and obstructs their plans.

The paper says that despite all the conspiracies concocted against its principles, Iraq will continue to adhere to its leadership and to care for its unity. Iraq is capable of foiling all the evil greed by further patience, steadiness, and perseverance.

AL-THAWRAH continues: We do not pin much hope on lifting the unfair embargo through a Security Council resolution. Instead, we wager on Iraq's continued patience and perseverance in order to fragment and terminate the embargo. The paper stresses that all signs confirm that [word indistinct] is with us and that what appears on the surface in terms of conspiracies and renewed embargo are only futile attempts.

Baghdad Mayor Links Embargo, Environmental Threats

JN2005120794 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—Baghdad Mayorality has called upon international and humanitarian organisations the world over to take a swift action to save Iraq's environment and treat environmental pollution that poses major threats to the lives of Iraqi people.

In a press conference held recently, Baghdad Mayor Tahir Muhammad Hassun shed light on the environmental hazards that ensured from the direct and indirect effects of the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq. In an urgent call to international and humanitarian organisations all over the world, Mr. Hassun urged for an immediate action to save the Iraqi environment.

The "Baghdad Call" aims at attracting the world's attention to the great damage inflicted by the U.S.-allied war and the continuation of the economic sanctions, the mayor said. He added that Iraq's environment has been greatly affected by the barbaric bombing by allied forces during the U.S.-led military aggression, indicating that the destruction of electric power faculties and water and waste water treatment plants has led to a cycle of contamination.

The mayor added that Baghdad is calling for help because the embargo has greatly affected the level of municipal services, noting that Baghdad is some 900 square kilometres in area and has a 4.5 million population. He said Baghdad city is divided into some 1.3 [figure as received] municipal units has some 467 residential quarters. The mayor added that due to the continuation of the embargo the average water delivery has decreased from 45 liters per capita per day (L/C/D) before the war to reach some 18 liters per capita per day after the war.

The mayor elaborated that severe damage has been inflicted upon water and waste water treatment plants. Moreover, fresh sewage is either overflowing in the streets or being discharged into the Tigris and the Euphrates without any treatment. Furthermore, allied bombing of roads and lack of spare parts needed to carry out maintenance because of the sanctions had caused cracks in sewer lines which in consequence caused ground water contamination. Many of these systems are either out of operation or operated at a reduced capacity because of pump breakdown, said the mayor.

The ultimate threat is posed by the large quantities of sewage which flow untreated into the country's two major rivers and run downstream. These rivers, the Euphrates and Tigris, constitute the main water sources of the country, said the mayor, adding that some 50 per cent, that is some five cubic metres per second sewage water is being pumped directly into rivers.

He added that Baghdad outskirts are still suffering from lack of potable water, noting that about one-third of Baghdad city lacks waste-water treatment system due to the stoppage of work on sewage and waste-water treatment projects due to lack of spare parts and materials due to the sanctions.

Moreover, the work of waste collecting vehicles is hampered by lack of maintenance and spare parts causing in consequence heaps of garbage in residential quarters of Baghdad, noting that the number of workers has also decreased from 6332 to some 2500 ones.

Solid waste disposal has been disrupted, consequently causing air pollution because people often tend to incinerate rubbish, said the mayor.

Mr. Hassun added that the sanctions have also brought work on renovation project of Baghdad city of a standstill, noting that work on the said project has started in 1980s. He added that the project aims at renovating and refurbishing ancient and historical sites and holy shrines and historical mosques and churches.

Mr. Hassun warned of the spread of epidemics saying that people of Baghdad city suffer from the wide spread of epidemics resulting from environmental pollution, the accumulation of garbage and lack of municipal services, noting that Baghdad hospitals hae reported a noticeable increase in communicable diseases.

The mayor urged health organisations the world over to act swiftly for lifting the 45-month-old economic sanction imposed on Iraq.

Columnist Urges UN To Honor Obligation

JN2305183394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "The Blockade Wall Will Collapse Whether They Like It or Not"]

[Text] Those who follow international affairs know that few states have carried out UN Security Council resolutions. Because, very often big power interests influence the issuance and implementation of these resolutions.

Perhaps, Iraq is foremost among world states that have responded positively by fulfilling its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 687, as admitted by UN Special Commission Chairman Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, who acknowledged Iraq's full cooperation with the council.

The question now is: Since the United States pressured the council to pass that resolution in order to impose an unfair blockade on the Iraqi people, and it has kept demanding for several years that Iraq must first implement that resolution, which links the lifting of the blockade to Iraqi fulfillment of its obligations under the resolution, and since the United States has spoken clearly in those terms, why is it now raising political issues and aims that have nothing to do with Resolution 687, whose Paragraph (22) permits Iraq to export oil once it has fulfilled its obligations?

This clearly shows that Washington is pursuing a double standard policy and that it will not hesitate to commit the most hideous crimes, such as the unfair blockade it has imposed on the Iraqi people, in order to achieve its aggressive designs against peoples that struggle for their freedom and dignity.

It is now clear to the whole world that two standards are being followed with regard to UN resolutions: First, an objective standard that calls for strict implementation of a clear resolution, and this is the standard upheld by the majority of world nations and most UN Security Council member states. Second, a standard based on a hostile and biased attitude toward Resolution 687 in order to harm the Iraqi people, and this is the dirty standard followed by the United States, the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers, and other pro-U.S. regimes.

These vile people do not care about anything in the world other than devising the most hideous ways in order to harm the Iraqi people and to commit crimes against them.

Resolution 687 is clear and frank. It places certain obligations on Iraq as well as on the Security Council. Now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations, justice, fairness, and international legitimacy and legality, which Washington often brags about, oblige the Security Council to honor its obligations toward Iraq by lifting the unfair blockade, which is no longer justifiable following the removal of all the causes which are supposed to have led to the passing of Resolution 687.

Washington's procrastination and attempts to circumvent the resolution in order to bar the council from honoring its obligations toward Iraq by lifting the unfair blockade, and its claim about "a constant Iraqi threat" in order to blackmail Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers and to plunder the wealth of the Arab people, who have been afflicted by those traitorous rulers, are poor and ridiculous excuses which cannot maintain any form of stability and security in the region, and they will certainly not guarantee the legitimate interests of Washington and other powers in the region.

The wall of the blockade will certainly collapse through the solid will of the Iraqis and their great leader Saddam Husayn. The unfair ones will only reap failure and disappointment.

BABIL: U.S. Seeks To Prolong Yemeni Crisis

JN2405102394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA)—BABIL has asserted that the only way for America and its allied reactionary forces to promote regionalism is by crushing the innocent masses through destructive crises, such as civil wars, armed rebellions, starvation, disruption of security, and lack of justice.

In an article today, the paper wonders: Why do the United States, Saudi Arabia, and the Egyptian regime want a cease-fire in Yemen, although they are fanning the flames of crises, wars, and divisions and are trying to partition Sudan and Iraq? Why did they sow the seeds of rebellion and nurture them until they grew in certain quarters in southern Yemen and are now trying to stop the fighting?

The paper asserts that anyone who thinks that America and its agents in Riyadh and Cairo think about preventing Arab bloodshed is deluded and influenced by the hostile, misleading media. It is enough to see how the United States provides weapons to, and protects the separatists in southern Sudan, northern Iraq, and southern Yemen, to ascertain that the United States has sanctioned the spilling of Arab blood and made it cheaper than water and oil.

The paper adds that America's major interest lies in perpetuating the Yemeni crisis in the form of various continuing bloody conflicts that extend over a long period of time so as to destroy the basic ideals in the citizens' minds and make them harbor personal grudges against each other.

The paper notes that the Yemeni unionist forces' adoption of military action to decide the situation and their rejection of any settlement is a direct blow to the U.S.

scheme because this checks the other steps aimed at pushing the masses toward an inferno of regional grudges and revenge. Thus, regionalism will be limited to the separatist faction in Aden.

The paper adds that Yemen's step is in the right direction and complements the Mother of Battles when the Iraq of Saddam Husayn denied America and the Zionists the chance to partition Iraq.

BABIL concludes that the appeal for a cease-fire in Yemen is merely a U.S.-Zionist-reactionary attempt to save the forces of apostasy and prolong the suffering in order to remold the psychology of the masses to accept the reality of secession as the best of all the bad choices.

British, U.S. Firms Refuse To Export Heart Medication

JN2305180394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 94 p 1

["Exclusive" AL-THAWRAH dispatch]

[Text] Two British firms have declined to export drugs for heart diseases to Iraq on the pretext that these drugs could be used in the arms industry!

In a research she presented at a seminar on the Arab family, which was held recently by the Arab Women Federation, Dr. Ittihad Salih Mahdi 'Ammash said that several British and U.S. firms have declined to export drugs considered essential for saving patients' lives, especially drugs for heart diseases, diabetes, and cancer, in addition to other medical requirements, due to pressure from their governments on the pretext that some of these drugs enter into the arms industry.

Dr. 'Ammash said: A roomful of heart disease pills would not be sufficient to produce a single hand grenade. So, you can imagine the fallacies of those states and their false claims about human rights.

Dr. 'Ammash affirmed that the Health Ministry has signed contracts and paid money in hard currencies for the purchase of those drugs from private sector firms in order to save patients' lives, but those states have declined to export them. This has led to the death of thousands of patients with those diseases, she added.

According to the research, Iraq used to import $500 million worth of drugs annually. Now, however, and especially in the next three years, Iraq will only be able to obtain $100 million worth of drugs, including those which are received as aid. So, one can imagine the suffering of Iraqi patients.

Syrian Foreign Minister's Statement Assailed

JN2305181294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 94 p 7

["Windows" column by Diya' Hasan: "The Nation is Strong With Iraq, Not Without It"]

[Text] Hafiz al-Asad's foreign minister Faruq al-Shar' has discovered at last that Arab suffering is due to the deterioration of Arab solidarity. He cited as examples the situation in Somalia, the blockade on Libya, and the conditions of the Palestinians under occupation. However, he completely ignored the suffering of the Iraqi people, as if he has not heard of the criminal blockade on Iraq due to that deterioration, for which his regime is largely responsible.

The Syrian minister knows very well that his regime has never stood for the unification of ranks and the building of a base for solidarity. On the contrary, his regime has stood against everything that is pan-Arab, and its leaders have sided with those who covet the nation and their actions have centered on foiling all efforts toward Arab solidarity. They imposed a blockade on Iraq and its people long before the foreigners did. Their ban on the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian and Lebanese territories and ports preceded Washington's blockade of Iraq by 10 years. Hafiz al-Asad's cooperation with Bush and his participation in the 30-state aggression against our people explains the nature of his regime, which is against everything that is Arab and is hostile to Arab national awakening.

What twisted logic is Hafiz al-Asad's minister trying to propagate when he insists on ignoring the suffering of the Iraqis? What kind of Arab solidarity can he propound in the absence of Iraq and amid the involvement of his regime and others in the continuation of the blockade on our people? He thinks that people are so stupid that they have not realized until now that the Syrian regime is playing its role exactly as planned, and that a settlement, as desired by Washington and with the participation of the Syrian regime of course, can only take place in the absence of Arab solidarity and Iraq. But for how long will that continue? This is the important question. Since the failure of the aggression, events have confirmed that no one can overlook Iraq's power and ability. It is an asset to the nation's continued existence and awakening. Iraq is here to stay, O minister of Hafiz!

Popular Resistance Attacks Troops, Casualties

NC1805203794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The Kurdistan office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has stated that the popular resistance forces in the south have ambushed a unit of the 14th brigade currently deployed in al-Basrah marshlands. An intelligence service car was destroyed and its crew, including a lieutenant, have been either killed or wounded.

A statement issued by the SAIRI office two days ago said that the popular resistance forces launched a major attack against a commando unit inside the al-'Amarah marshlands. The regime's troops were forced to retreat, leaving behind many dead troops and several destroyed vehicles. The regime's artillery pounded areas in [word indistinct], killing a civilian and injuring four others.

Armed Clashes Between Kurdish Parties Resume

PM2005145094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 94 p4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Armed Clashes Renewed Between Kurdish Parties in Northern Iraq"]

[Text] London—Two years after the first general free multiparty elections in Iraqi Kurdistan (yesterday was the anniversary), an increasing number of Iraqi Kurds feel frustrated and disappointed as armed clashes between Kurdish parties continue for the third consecutive week resulting in major human and material losses as well as disruption of normal life and appearance of signs of foreign intervention in Kurdish affairs. Independent Kurdish sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the fighting which began at the beginning of this month between the militias of the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by Mas'ud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani has resulted in hundreds of military and civilian casualties, both dead and wounded, and similar numbers taken prisoner, in addition to serious material losses. The sources said that tension returned in the past few days after last week's guarded calm during which the leaders of the parties of Barzani and Talabani tried in vain to implement agreements they had reached for stopping the fighting and normalizing the situation.

Sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that fierce fighting broke out yesterday between the two parties in the strategic city of Shaqlawah near Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region, and, according to some other sources, widespread clashes have been going on for days in the eastern areas near the border with Iran between PUK forces and forces of the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan [IMIK] and Hizballah, the two Islamic organizations suspected of receiving financial and military aid from Iran.

The sources also said that a prominent member of Talabani's party was killed last Tuesday in an ambush laid by the Islamists. They said that Hasan Kawistani, member of the PUK leadership, and 16 of his companions were killed in the Hajj 'Umran area northeast of Irbil near the border with Iran when they were on their way to a meeting with local officials of Barzani's party.

The same sources said that the population in Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and other Kurdish cities are facing increasing shortages of food, medicine, and basic services because of the suspension of transport movement on the road linking the two biggest Kurdish cities with Zakhu near the Turkish border, through which the Kurds received most of their food and medical needs.

PUK, KDP Urge Normalizing Situation in Kurdistan

NC2005163394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has appealed to the masses of Kurdistan calling for prompt efforts to normalize the situation in Kurdistan. Earlier Mas'ud Barzani [Kurdistan Democratic Party leader] made a similar appeal.

Talabani, Barzani Supporters Said To Resume Fighting

JN2105200194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1836 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Irbil, 21 May (INA)—Reports from Irbil have said that clashes between the cliques of Talabani and Barzani resumed today in the district of Shaqlawah, the summer resort of Salah al-Din, and some neighborhoods in the city of Irbil. These clashes claimed the lives of dozens of innocent citizens. Many people from both sides were also killed or wounded.

In the past two days, the Talabani group attempted to attack the elements and centers of the clique of the so-called Islamic Movement in Halabjah and nearby areas. The group, however, achieved nothing. It recently cut the power supply of this area, which is fed by power generators from the city of al-Sulaymaniyah.

The Talabani group said that Hasan Kuwistani [name as received], Political Bureau member of Talabani's party, and seven other party members were killed in the Hajj 'Umran sector, and that the killers mutilated his body and used a car to pull it before people in Hajj 'Umran.

Kurdistan Democratic Party Leader Urges Cease-Fire

NC2005162694 Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Ankara, May 20 (AFP)—Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, Friday appealed for a ceasefire between his forces and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

"I appeal to all the parties to stop the war and end the Kurdish bloodshed," Barzani said in a statement received by AFP in Ankara Friday.

The Patriotic Union, led by Jalal Talabani, and the Democratic Party have both rejected responsibility for the outbreak of fighting Wednesday and Thursday which broke a ceasefire agreement signed May 8.

Northern Iraq has been under the control of the two movements since an uprising against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's army at the end of the Gulf War in February 1991.

Officials from the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition said to represent all Kurdish and Arab groups opposed to the Iraqi leader, Thursday accused the Patriotic Union of breaching the previous ceasefire agreement.

Barzani called for joint efforts with the Iraqi National Congress to normalise the relationship.

The May 8 agreement, brokered by the Iraqi National Congress, came after two weeks of fighting in which at least 100 people were killed.

PUK Fighters Occupy Parliament, Ministries

JN2205185194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 94

[Station commentary: "Freedom for Parliament in Irbil"]

[Text] Dear listener: You must be surprised at the headline because it calls for freedom for the parliament that is supposed to be the guarantor of freedom. This appeal has been prompted by the fact that international parliamentary figures and blocs from various European and other countries have recently sent letters to the speaker of the Kurdistan National Council, the Kurdistan parliament, in Irbil. The letters call on him to hold a parliament meeting to discuss problems resulting from the current crisis and the regrettable clashes in Iraqi Kurdistan and provide solutions for them.

The speaker of parliament responded to these letters, explaining the situation as it really is.

Respected listeners; Our people's friends from the members of world parliaments are, of course, right. What they demand should be achieved because logically it is the best way out of the crisis if there are attentive people with sound eyes and ears. However, the facts on the ground are both comic and tragic. The Kurdistan parliament is besieged by war. To make what we say more explicit, we say:

1. On a momentous hour the night of 3-4 May 1994, the fighters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] headed for the parliament building in Irbil. After disarming and beating the parliament's guards, they occupied the building and plundered some of the furniture. Then they went to the roof of the building and transformed it into a trench for confrontation and battles.

2. Despite bilateral [as heard] attempts and other attempts within the framework of the Kurdistan Front, the PUK fighters continued to occupy the building.

3. In a report disseminated worldwide on 20 May 1994, REUTER correspondent, Mr. (Alistair Belloc), said that the PUK fighters are occupying the parliament and other government buildings in Irbil.

4. The PUK fighters attacked a number of ministries and government departments, especially the finance and education ministries. They broke doors and looted some furniture. They placed barricade over the roofs of these buildings.

5. Fighters of the PUK are establishing barricades and checkpoints on streets leading to the parliament and Council of Ministers buildings, as well as the education, finance, culture, and other ministries which are adjacent to each other and very close to the parliament building.

Thus, it is very difficult to hold a parliament meeting in this tense atmosphere and amid these military measures. Naturally, we warmly welcome initiatives and appeals by our friends from world parliaments and parliamentary blocs in various countries. We support presenting problems and tackling them in parliament because this is the natural solution of the problem. But how can a meeting be convened under the shadow of arms and in a tense atmosphere?

Therefore, we propose that all fighters should withdraw as soon as possible from the roof and from inside the parliament building, that the protection of the building should be restored to the original guards entrusted with protecting parliament, that the stolen furniture be restored to the building, that the fighters leave all government departments, and that the barricades and checkpoints should be removed from all roads and streets leading to the parliament and Council of Ministers buildings. Only then will there be an appropriate atmosphere to consider convening the parliament so it can exercise its natural legislative role in an atmosphere of security and freedom.

Saddam Orders Increases in Purchase Prices of Crops

JN2305180794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 94 p 1

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has ordered increases in the purchase prices of oil-producing and tobacco crops as follows:

Crop	Current Purchase Price	New Purchase Price
	Dinars Per Tonne	Dinars Per Tonne
1. Cotton		
Excellent Grade	20,000	30,000
Grade One	18,000	27,000
Grade Two	15,000	22,000
2. Sunflower	10,000	17,000
3. Soya Beans	9,000	16,000
4. Tobacco		
Grade One	25,000	55,000
Grade Two	23,000	50,000
Grade Three	19,000	45,000

Rabin To Demand 'Arafat's Written Commitment to Accord

Speech 'Casts Doubts'

TA2305121894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he will demand from Yasir 'Arafat to reaffirm in writing his commitment to the peace agreement signed earlier this month. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the prime minister's spokesman, said that 'Arafat's speech in Johannesburg casts doubts on his sincerity with regard to the peace agreement. Ben-'Ami noted that Israel will put off the negotiations on the second stage of the agreement with the Palestinians until the PLO consolidates its rule in Gaza and Jericho.

In response, PLO member Jamil al-Tarifi said that any delay in the implementation of the next stage of the autonomy will constitute a deviation from the agreement.

Peres Echoes Call

TA2305192994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Yasir 'Arafat must reaffirm his commitment to all the components and appendixes of the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles. In addition, 'Arafat must reiterate his opposition to the use of force or violence in the relations with Israel. Thirdly, 'Arafat must reiterate his pledge to resolve conflicts peaceably. Shim'on Peres says 'Arafat made a declaration in this spirit during their meeting in Oslo some 10 days ago, in the wake of the public disclosure of the first passage of the Johannesburg tape.

Shim'on Peres says 'Arafat must make all these pronouncements for all the world to hear, and not only in a talk between politicians.

Mr. Peres made these remarks after his meeting with the UN secretary general in New York.

Adviser Differs With Rabin

TA2305185494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 May 94

[Telephone report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the Knesset—live]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser, has leveled criticism at what he terms picking on trivial details and at the government's being swayed by the right wing. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen is at the Knesset. Good evening 'Imanu'el. What is the meaning of the Israeli threat to defer the negotiations? Is it not a fact that the Gaza and Jericho autonomy are not going to be deferred?

[Rosen] Since it is obvious to everyone that the Gaza and Jericho agreement cannot be taken back to square one, Israel is threatening with whatever it can. But since no date has been set for the next stage of the negotiations, the so-called early empowerment [preceding two words in English] in the West Bank, the threat is not too critical or daunting.

Tonight we heard Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser, utter some very intriguing criticism, which can be interpreted as criticism of the prime minister himself. Neriya told us tonight: They are picking on trivial things; you cannot expect 'Arafat to reiterate his commitment every day; everyone is aware of the importance of the spoken word in the Arab world. Neriya further said: They are being swept by public trends, perhaps even by the right wing. [passage omitted]

Peres on Distinguishing 'Arafat's Words, Deeds

TA2305165194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Commenting on 'Arafat's speech at the Johannesburg mosque, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Yasir 'Arafat is the first Palestinian leader who is prepared to make peace with Israel, and that we have to differentiate between his remarks and his deeds. The foreign minister made these remarks in an conversation with our Washington correspondent Arye Golan at the outset of his U.S. visit.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, what is your comment on the latest disclosure of the tape in which 'Arafat says in Johannesburg that the agreement is temporary, that it is like the agreement between Muhammad and the Quiraish tribe?

[Peres] First of all, I am not certain that 'Arafat and Muhammad resemble one another. They have a different explanation, you know. I am not their attorney. I asked 'Arafat about this, and he explained that the Quiraish tribe was the one that violated the agreement, in retaliation to which Muhammad violated the agreement with Quiraish. That was his explanation. I have no doubt, however, that he was drawn into a harmful speech.

[Golan] Is he still a partner for peace negotiations, after all we have heard about his remarks in Johannesburg, including the latest disclosure?

[Peres] Look, negotiations are waged by nations, not persons— by the Palestinians and us. He heads the Palestinians for better and for worse.

[Golan] Do you still believe him?

[Peres] I believe in peace.

[Golan] Are you saying that what he told you in Oslo is sufficient, that he does not have to sign any new commitments?

[Peres] No, I am not a notary who writes affidavits. It is not my job.

[Golan] What is going to happen now? What will happen to the government if this man continues making such pronouncements?

[Peres] Again, I do not want to be anyone's advocate, but we should differentiate between people's pronouncements and their deeds. In this century, he was the first Palestinian leader who decided to engage in negotiations on the basis of compromise. This is the other side of the story. What good was it that the mufti, who headed the Palestinians for 43 years, kept saying no, no, no? What good was it that for 20-odd years the same 'Arafat kept saying no and dealt in terrorism?

[Golan] Now he is saying yes and no alternately.

[Peres] No, he is doing yes and saying no. I do not want to generalize, but we should remember his deeds, not just his declarations.

[Golan] Don't you feel he is pulling wool over our eyes, as they say?

[Peres] First of all, no one can pull wool over our eyes, because we are not fools. We have the strength to defend ourselves. We are not sapping our strength or impairing our security one iota. We are making peace because we are strong, not because we are weak. This is not peace made by weaklings, this is not peace made by a pathetic nation. I feel we are a strong, well-organized country which enjoys enormous international support, a country which has grown. Militarily, we have most of what we need. Therefore, the elements of anxiety, fear, or weakness are not at stake here.

[Golan] Are you for pursuing the peace process with him, for granting them self-rule according to the plan?

[Peres] I repeat: Not with him, with the Palestinian people. And if a Palestinian authority is established, we will have a much broader body to deal with. Today, however, he is the spokesman and the leader of the Palestinians, and we must remember this for better and for worse.

The transition period is difficult. They have a police, they do not have a police; they have money, they do not have money. But the transition period, too, should be viewed in the right light. It is the transition period.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister. [end recording]

Shahal on Warning to PLO; Dialogue To Continue

TA2405055994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] If Yasir 'Arafat continues to make statements contradicting the peace agreement, Israel will not implement the next phases. This warning was issued yesterday in the Knesset by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, although he added that Israel would continue the dialogue with the Palestinians. The minister was responding to several opposition motions of no confidence. They were all defeated, as we hear from our parliamentary reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Police Minister Moshe Shahal talked tough but held back in terms of taking action now against the statements of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Shahal told the Knesset plenum if the terrorist attacks continue, along with statements by 'Arafat and others contrary to the peace accord, Israel will continue to talk to the Palestinians but will not implement future stages until the PLO—and here the police minister throws in a second issue—proves its ability to rule over Gaza and Jericho in an effective manner. In other words, if the PLO does not prove it can control Gaza and Jericho, Israel will not hand over the remainder of the West Bank.

Shahal called 'Arafat's explanations on what he meant when he called for a jihad holy war ridiculous, and the police minister said 'Arafat's statements run contrary to the exchange of letters that led to mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

The toughest opposition speaker presenting a motion of no confidence was Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Levi of the National Religious Party, who said 'Arafat is spitting in the government's face, and the government thinks it is raining. Levi said if the government does not stop the PLO chairman from entering Jericho, we will have to stop him. Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi called from his seat: If he does enter, he will not come out alive. [end recording]

'Status Quo Ante' Threatened

TA2405063394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Israel has warned the Palestinians that any violation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement will restore the status quo ante in the autonomous areas. The warning was issued before the Knesset plenum by Minister Moshe Shahal, and its wording had been previously coordinated with the prime minister's bureau.

Peres, Netanyahu on Prospects for Peace

NC2405100194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 May 94 p 9

[Interviews with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Ati, in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, respectively; dates not given]

[Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Ati] My first interview was with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at a Foreign Ministry building in Tel Aviv. Mr. Peres, how do you see the future of peace in the region following the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

[Peres] There is no doubt that wars have slowed economic development in the region. It is in our interest to have an economic revival in the region. We are focusing on economic development. It is also important for us that the conditions of the Palestinians improve because a well-off neighbor will certainly be more stable. We are helping the Palestinians as much as we can. This does not mean we have withdrawn militarily from the land to come back and occupy it economically.

['Abd-al-'Ati] What was your feeling when you saw the transfer of authority to the Palestinians? And what will be the fate of the rest of the occupied land?

[Peres] This is the first time the Palestinian people have lived on their land and been in control. I do not know what the future will bring. We must continue the negotiations without delay. These negotiations should not remain confined to the extension of self-rule to other areas, as was the case in Washington. They should also deal with the transfer of authority in the areas of education, health, social affairs, and taxation. I think it is wrong to believe that we can control the Palestinian presence in Nabulus, Hebron, and Ramallah, situated respectively in the north, south, and middle of the West Bank.

What matters now is that we are relieved of the burden of Gaza. When I hear of the sense of relief among our soldiers who were dispatched to face the rock-throwers there, I say: Our soldiers have been brave but thank God it is over.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Israel insists that Jerusalem will remain its eternal capital and the Arabs counter that with their own claim. How do you see this issue being resolved?

[Peres] Jerusalem does not represent a problem for us now. It is unified from the political side and divided from the religious side. There is full freedom of access to all Jewish, Christian, and Islamic holy places. Religious shrines must be respected and we protect and guard them.

We have signed an agreement with the Vatican by which Israel will protect Christian shrines. We are ready to sign a similar agreement with the Islamic world. Jerusalem was never an Arab capital. The Jewish people have never had any capital but Jerusalem (!!) [punctuation as published]

['Abd-al-'Ati] Why has there been no progress on the Syrian track?

[Peres] The Syrians are very hardline. President Hafiz al-Asad does not want to do what President al-Sadat did. We do not know how long al-Asad wants to wait. Seventeen years ago the problem was simple and Syria would have achieved a better deal. But it seems that President al-Asad wants to take his time. All this time is being wasted. But I believe Syria will ultimately follow in Egypt's footsteps and begin open negotiations with Israel.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Israel talks a lot about peace guarantees and security arrangements but it does not trust the Arabs. Still, Egypt is an Arab country and for the past 17 years there has been no violation of the Camp David Accords. Why is Israel, then, afraid of peace with Syria?

[Peres] Yes, Egypt is committed to peace with Israel and is even playing a major role in the region to narrow differences. The question is: Why is Syria not following Egypt's example? The problem with the Syrians is that they want to get to where Egypt is without following the same path.

['Abd-al-'Ati] How does Israel feel about Islamic violence in Egypt? What is your view of the future of peace between Egypt and Israel?

[Peres] Evidently the emergence of Islamic extremism threatens all the peoples of the region. The situation in Iran shows that Islamic extremism has solved nothing. I believe the extremists and fundamentalists entertain the illusion that they can solve their countries' problems if they assume power.

['Abd-al-'Ati] The Dayr al-Sultan issue [a church in Jerusalem at the center of a dispute between Egyptian and Eritrean Copts] is one of the pending issues between Egypt and Israel. Why didn't the Israeli authorities intercede to solve it when an Israeli judicial verdict was handed down to give Dayr al-Sultan to the Egyptian Copts?

[Peres] The problem is not between us and Egypt but between Egyptian and Eritrean Copts.

['Abd-al-'Ati] The Israelis seized the keys of the church and handed it to the Eritreans. There is a judicial verdict in favor of the Egyptian Copts.

[Peres] A ministerial committee will discuss the problem and decide.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Next I met Benyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader and successor to Yitzhaq Shamir, in a suite in the Holiday Inn in Jerusalem. I asked: The voting in the Knesset on the Gaza-Jericho Agreement demonstrated strong opposition by the Likud Bloc. Why are you opposed to peace?

[Netanyahu] The Likud is opposed to the Declaration of Principles agreement known as the Gaza-Jericho Agreement but is not opposed to peace. The Likud signed the peace agreement with President al-Sadat at Camp David in 1977. And the Likud started the peace process with the Arab countries concerned at the Madrid Conference. So what is said about us is untrue.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Then why do you reject Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area?

[Netanyahu] No Israeli withdrawal should take place before confidence is built between the Palestinians and Israelis. This also applies to the Golan. I do not trust the security arrangements being worked out with the Arabs.

I will give you an example: Iraqi President Saddam Husayn used to embrace the amir of Kuwait and repeatedly declared that he would not enter or occupy Kuwait. What did Saddam Husayn do afterward? He occupied Kuwait. So how can I believe any talk about peace between us and the Arabs unless we build confidence and bridges between our peoples. They will merely be speeches full of air. A genuine peace is one that is built through confidence between the peoples. Naturally, the Arabs and Jews need time to build this confidence.

['Abd-al-'Ati] In your view, what is the future of peace in the region after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

[Netanyahu] There are many questions that should not be asked now, not before we give peace a try. We are waiting to judge the Palestinians. We want to build confidence between the peoples first and then discuss the peace process and what might happen.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Does this mean that if the Likud assumes power, it may revoke the agreement signed between the Palestinians and the Labor Party led by Rabin?

[Netanyahu] This is untrue. The Israeli people agreed on this accord. We are discussing building confidence and the Palestinians should comply with the agreement.

['Abd-al-'Ati] The Israelis insist that Jerusalem is their eternal capital and the Arabs also insist that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state and that they will not cede Jerusalem. Your comment?

[Netanyahu] Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and there will be no going back. We will not even accept partitioning the city. Let us give peace a chance, for there is a long way to go and there are other issues before the negotiating committees. [passage omitted]

Peres Meets With Butrus-Ghali in New York

TA2405061294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpts] Lebanon has complained to the Security Council about Israel's abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani. The complaint was submitted as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was meeting UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in New York. Peres said Yasir 'Arafat has to make clear his commitment to all elements of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and express opposition to the use of violence in relations with Israel. From New York, Judy Lessing reports:

[Begin Lessing recording] Foreign Minister Peres told Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali about Israel's relations with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians, and he said a high priority is the building of the new Middle East. He said it is Israel which must make the tangible concessions, and Israelis need to know there is a new Middle East. The secretary general assured Mr. Peres the United Nations has a sincere interest in the peace process in the region, and he has offered UN help to promote it, though he did not give many specifics. He did talk about the possibility of setting up some kind of apparatus to oversee UN agencies, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, as the funds promised for the Palestinian self-ruling authority are made available.

Foreign Minister Peres says that Israel is pleased its relations with the United Nations are improving, but he said he would like to see more progress, and he told the secretary general Israel wants to become a normal, full participant in the United Nations. For example, he said, Israel is willing to contribute to peacekeeping operations, and though the government would have to approve any contribution of forces to say, Angola, this could be a possibility. At a time when the United Nations is having serious problems getting skilled troops for its operations, this should have been a welcome suggestion.

It is almost certain the question of where Ron Arad is was discussed when Mr. Peres and Mr. Butrus-Ghali had a private meeting before their aides joined them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Addressing the Israel Policy Forum, Foreign Minister Peres said that with peace in the Middle East, the threat of nuclear weapons will be eradicated.

[Begin Peres recording] We shall have a Middle East free of the danger of war. We shall also, I hope so, have a Middle East free of the danger of the nuclear threat. But it must be in this order. You cannot build a second floor before you have the first one. When the Egyptians in particular are demanding that Israel will sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and so on, we are asking them privately: Gentlemen, are you going to guarantee that Iran is okay, Iraq is okay, Libya is okay? What are you talking about? You cannot have it done partially. Their nuclearization is invisible. Otherwise it does not exist. If we shall have a different Middle East, we shall have a different policy concerning the nonconventional arms. [end recording]

Alleged Likud Opposition to Netanyahu Detailed

TA2305183994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 94 p B2

[Report by 'Amira Segev]

[Text] Time and time again Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has been rescued by current events from the need to directly respond to the harsh criticism leveled by his party associates. It happened against last week.

In retrospective, the assault on Netanyahu seems to be a well-planned military operation. True to the routine he repeats every two to three months, Ari'el Sharon tried to check the party's pulse by launching a direct assault on Netanyahu in a Qol Yisra'el interview, in which he charged Netanyahu with failing to lead the Likud as a militant opposition. Sharon's remarks were carried prominently on two newscasts, but were forgotten as soon as the unofficial tape of 'Arafat's Johannesburg remarks arrived. Another item that drowned in the ocean of reactions to 'Arafat's declarations was the story of an anti-Netanyahu mutiny which almost broke out in the Likud after Netanyahu blatantly left the Knesset plenum during the vote on the peace plan; this story was exposed one week after the fact.

The following day, Sharon exposed "the establishment of the first organized group since the primaries seeking to replace the Likud chairman." Sharon said: "Together with several colleagues, I am planning moves designed to establish a more appropriate Likud leadership soon."

The following day the level of the Sharon-David Levi talks rose from tete-a-tetes in the Knesset members' [MK's] cafeteria to official meetings in Tel Aviv. Political correspondents were notified of a meeting after it took place, but the communication came with the abject denials of David Levi—who has been persistently refusing to be interviewed on the Netanyahu subject—and with an evasive denial delivered on behalf of "Sharon's confidants" (a quick poll conducted among Likud MK's did not reveal a single name which could fit in this category). The denial maintained that the conversation dealt merely with political issues and their future repercussions. Since a lethal terrorist attack took place on the day after the meeting, the matter petered out again.

"All these events," Netanyahu says, "are an attempt by a few frustrated party activists and a few bored journalists to make headlines. It is not serious."

[Segev] Are you satisfied with your standing in the Likud then?

[Netanyahu] Satisfied? Satisfied is not the right term. I am not worried. [end Netanyahu]

About a month ago Netanyahu asked YEDI'OT AHARONOT for an interview in order to publicly apologize to David Levi for having accused him in the famous tape affair. As will be remembered, Levi's reaction was: "Too little. Too late. He should apologize to the entire nation." "Netanyahu is acting out of the depths of history," senior Likud officials rhapsodized off the record.

Limor Livnat, formerly from Sharon's entourage and currently one of the three MK's officially identified with Netanyahu, says Netanyahu is preoccupied with planning, not with history. "Netanyahu wanted to show the Likud voters that he was taking action, that he was trying to unite the ranks, and if he fails, everyone should know who is to blame," she says. The same explanation lies at the foundation of this week's establishment of the political Likud forum, to which ten MK's, including Sharon and Levi, were invited. A party spokesman says: "Now everyone will see who does not want the Likud to function properly." Sharon and Levi did not come to the forum meeting.

"There is no serious activity against Netanyahu," Me'ir Shitrit, Dan Meridor, Beni Begin, Limor Livnat, David Magen, Moshe Qatzav, Mikha'el Eytan, and Ehud Olmert say. None of them is able to name a single person capable of mustering a 75-percent Central Committee majority, which is required for any step from amending the Likud constitution and deciding to hold a convention more than once every four years, down to a decision to repeat the primaries.

One of these MK's says: "Netanyahu has exhausted the early enthusiasm with his election, and he has most likely established his standing until after the next elections in two and a half years. Although two and a half years are a long time in politics, I do not expect Likud figures with contrasting interests to unite, not even to topple Bibi Netanyahu—although some of them truly believe this is the most dire need of the hour."

Thus, there is apparently no anti-Netanyahu activity at the moment, but the intensity of the charges against him—voiced by the radical right wing in and outside the party, by moderate party members, and even by his own people—is growing. Radical Likud figures, such as Ari'el Sharon and Dov Shilansky, accuse him of sloppy action against the government peace moves and of relegating the struggle over the integrity of Eretz Yisra'el to the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Central Committee members, such as Meridor, Begin, and Shitrit, claim that Netanyahu is the victim of squabbles between Yehoshu'a Matza and Tzahi Hanegbi, who are competing over proximity to him and are provoking him, with the assistance of his close aide Yvette Liberman, to extravagant proclamations in the style of Ari'el Sharon and Rehav'am Ze'evi. Begin and Meridor, for instance, refuse to attend mass right-wing demonstrations and to fly slogans such as the "Treason Government" and "Rabin Is a Traitor." The two men do not disguise their demand that the Likud action follow its own course of action, rather than toe the line with Ze'evi.

Meridor refuses to comment on frictions in the Likud in general and Netanyahu's standing in particular. Begin, on the other hand, issues temperate statements about Likud unity and the need to back the elected leader. Shitrit, on his part, claims that Netanyahu's belligerent, unbridled allusions to the peace process "removed the Likud from the public debate on the issue and made the party totally irrelevant in this context. If Rabin achieves a peace package including Syria and Jordan before the elections, the Likud, as it is now, will be unable to survive. Today the party is paralyzed. There is a feeling that it is a one man's party, and there is no sense of togetherness.

"Despite that," Shitrit says, "I will not lend my hand to any move seeking to unseat Bibi. He is the man until the next Knesset elections. Until then, we must help him to succeed, because his success is the success of the Likud."

The anti-Netanyahu arguments recently heard in his own camp stem from his undermined public image. Netanyahu likes American methods, and public opinion polls are his beacon. And the latest polls—one of which was published last Friday—show that his popularity is waning. "If this is the situation," one of the most prominent Likud headquarters functionaries says, "perhaps he is really not the man who will bring the Likud back to power. He attracted great support and was elected by a vast majority. If he is doing so badly in the polls, and the polls are what matters, then perhaps we made a mistake."

Several weeks ago, the Channel 2 Television Network prepared a report marking Netanyahu's first year in office. Many Likud MK's, including Shitrit, Sharon, Levi, Qatzav, Meridor, Begin, Nisim, and Magen were invited for an interview. The only one who came was Yitzhaq Shamir. "I do not attach great importance to talk against Bibi Netanyahu," the former prime minister said in that report. "Opposition and subversion existed during Begin's and my time, too. The elected chairman should focus only on vital issues." Shamir refused to answer a question on how he explains the fact that barring him, no one agreed to make complimentary remarks about Netanyahu.

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Even if there is no organized opposition to Netanyahu within the Likud, there are more than enough initiatives which could be construed that way. Since last November, MK David Magen (a former Sharon follower) has been promoting the notion of Dan Meridor as leader of the Likud, trying to summon a party convention in 1995, and calling for the reelection of officials at all levels.

Meridor categorically denies being involved. "I did not ask or initiate anything," he said. "It was the initiative of Magen, and I believe, also of Ya'aqov Verdugo. I asked them to get me out of it at once. At the moment, I am not running. In due course, if the matter comes up I may consider it." And what about Magen's initiative to summon a party convention? "He has never discussed the issue with me," Meridor says. A political correspondent says that Magen recently told him: "Things will be interesting in the summer. You had better be prepared for the summer."

[Segev] MK Magen, what did you have in mind?

[Magen] What I had in mind is that my efforts to summon a party convention would be demonstrated in the summer. Politics is too dynamic an art to have it reassessed only once every four years. The Likud should not become fossilized, and all its levels should be put up for reelection every two years.

[Segev] Did you officially raise this initiative? Has Netanyahu reacted to it?

[Magen] Not yet. I am now working on the issue, so far without results. I cannot yet demand it officially. Also, I do not know what Netanyahu's reaction was to what he has already heard.

[Segev] Does it have to do with your initiative to promote Dan Meridor as leader of the party?

[Magen] I have never said I had such an initiative.

[Segev] So, you do not have such an initiative?

[Magen] I am only saying that I have not yet raised it anywhere.

[Segev] Your initiative to summon a party convention is perceived as a move against the chairman of the Likud.

[Magen] My effort is positive, not negative. Any other comment will only harm my initiative, which I consider very important.

[Segev] Do you have supporters?

[Magen] I do not operate in a vacuum.

[Segev] How do you operate?

[Magen] I use persuasion. I persuade people in key positions in our party branches. I hope we will manage to advance the idea. [end Magen]

"One convention more, one convention less," Binyamin Netanyahu responds, "what difference will it make?"

[Segev] Even with the candidacy of Dan Meridor—who overtly opposed your move to stalk out of the Knesset plenum during the vote on the peace agreement—hanging in the background?

[Netanyahu] If that is what you call "opposing me," then it is not serious. My relations with Dan are excellent, and this is not the first time that he has voiced views opposed to mine, especially on this issue. [end Netanyahu]

The Likud's failure in the Histadrut labor federation elections did not contribute to Netanyahu's position. He took a lot of criticism on the issue, among others from Limor Livnat, who is considered a follower. "Whatever I said after the failure I also told him to his face, loud and clear," says Livnat.

[Segev] Will you second Magen's initiative?

[Livnat] I supported Beni Begin's move to have an additional round of primaries before the Knesset elections. The Likud Central Committee's decision not to have such a round remains in effect, and as far as I am concerned, this is the end of the story.

[Segev] And you have no problem with it?

[Livnat] Anybody planning a move against Bibi Netanyahu will be damaging the Likud. That does not prevent me from leveling criticism or make me automatically agree to everything. On the Histadrut elections Bibi made a mistake, and I told him as much. This does not mean that I will lend a hand to rebellion and defiance. No way.

[Segev] Does the Likud have an alternative to Bibi Netanyahu?

[Livnat] He was only chosen a year ago. What's the big rush to throw the party into a frenzy? I keep hearing about absurd initiatives, such as to bring back Moshe Arens, the man who got up and left the Likud one minute after it was beaten. People who have not come to terms with their defeat in the primaries feel frustrated and resentful, by way of "if we go down, we will take you down with us."

[Segev] How is the party dealing with this? Is it up in arms over it?

[Livnat] You could say it does not make life easy. [end Livnat]

Ehud Olmert is also opposed to coming out against Netanyahu. "I am against any action which might harm Bibi," says Olmert. "He was elected, period. Such actions create a self-fulfilling prophecy. People predict his downfall, initiate moves to bring it about, and when they succeed they say: We told you so, he is on his way out."

Says a senior Likud official off the record: "Constant subversion by these two lesser players against the head of the pyramid has become chronic. They did the same to Shamir and Begin. Magen joined them about six months ago; they embraced Shitrit's harsh criticism of Netanyahu and accorded a measure of certain elegance to the whole affair. All the rest is constructive and legitimate criticism. As far as Bibi is concerned, the broader the forum the larger the support for him. His lowest support is in the Knesset, and his broadest is among the Likud's 180,000 registered voters. Levi and Sharon have no support from the ranks, and this was confirmed in all recent confrontations. Sharon has no followers at all, while among Levi's followers I have heard grumbling that because of his pet peeves they were left behind and were not given any jobs."

"I do not wish to discuss the issue of Bibi Netanyahu at all," David Levi says.

[Segev] So, what was the reason for the meetings with Sharon?

[Levi] Where are those meetings being held? In the cafeteria here, right?

[Segev] So, are you doing it to anger everybody?

Levi laughs. "You said it."

Knesset Defeats 2 No-Confidence Motions

TA2305184294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The Knesset has defeated the opposition's motions of no confidence in the government. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in the vote on 'Arafat's Johannesburg remarks, the coalition was supported by 50 Knesset members [MK's], versus 44 for the opposition.

In the vote on the United Torah Jewry's no-confidence motion on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops withdrawal from Gaza on a Sabbath and a holiday, 50 MK's supported the government and 42 supported the opposition. Our correspondent notes that the YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] MK's abstained in this vote, the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK's were absent, while SHAS MK Yosef 'Azran voted with the opposition.

IDF Reports 'Accurate Hits' on Hizballah

TA2405071294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpt] Israel Air Force jets this morning attacked Hizballah targets in the Jabal Safi area of south Lebanon. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that all our planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported accurate hits against their targets.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the area attacked is under the full control of the Hizballah organization, and the targets served as training bases and staging points for terrorist attacks. [passage omitted]

IDF Completes Operation Against Hamas

TA2205130094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The security forces have completed an operation in Hebron aimed at apprehending armed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives. Two terrorists were detained, and the body of another terrorist was discovered under the debris of a house which was demolished. The security forces are searching for the body of another terrorist. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force is searching the area in a bid to locate more fugitives. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during the operation shots were fired at an IDF force from a nearby cave; the soldiers returned the fire. The entire area is closed-off to traffic. The operation was launched in a bid to apprehend fugitives who are suspected of murdering the settlers near Bet Hagay last week.

Defense Sources Reject Red Cross Visit to al-Dirani

TA2405101894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by military affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Defense establishment elements announced yesterday that Israel will not permit International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representatives to visit al-Dirani as long as no sign of life is received from Ron Arad. The announcement was made in response to an ICRC appeal to the Israeli Government to allow its staffers to visit al-Dirani. [passage omitted]

Israelis Said 'Entitled To Carry Arms' in Jericho

TA2205133794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The door of the old synagogue in Jericho has been broken and its lock shattered. Local yeshiva students blame the Palestinian policemen for the act. Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, visited the place and said the issue is under investigation. Answering a question, Maj. Gen. Biran said that according to the agreement, every Israeli citizen is entitled to carry arms in Jericho. Our correspondent notes that the yeshiva students in the synagogue are armed.

Meanwhile, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is banning Israeli vehicles from entering Jericho. Even the passage of military vehicles through the city requires a special permit. Our correspondent Moti Amir assesses that this is done in order to prevent unnecessary friction during 'Id al-Adha and the celebrations accompanying the opening of the Palestinian security service office in the city.

Police To Prohibit Palestinian Institutions in Jerusalem

TA2405105694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has said that the police will prevent the establishment of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Shahal promised to take legal action against any such institution. Anyone attempting to carry out police activities in Jerusalem will be arrested and brought to trial, Shahal asserted. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police minister was addressing the Knesset's Internal Affairs Committee.

Defense, Foreign Ministries Prepare for CW Talks

TA2405101494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] The United States is urging Israel to ratify the international convention on the elimination of chemical weapons [CW] within a few months. Israel will respond to this U.S. request, which was recently received here, by the end of the month. The Defense and Foreign Ministries are preparing to hold consultations on the reply.

On 22 May, a discussion on the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC] was held at Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office. Israel signed the convention in January 1993. In its reply to the United States, it will presumably announce that since the ratification date is not until next year, Israel will not address the issue at the present time. To prevent the CWC from harming its security and to ensure a Middle East free of chemical weapons, however, Israel will demand that Arab countries also sign the convention. [passage omitted]

Right Wing Lobbies Gain U.S. Congressional Support

TA2305143594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 94 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington: "Where Are Israel's Friends?"]

[Excerpts] If Bill Clinton does not do "something" about Bosnia, he might find a senate resolution on his desk this week forcing him to lift the embargo imposed on Bosnia. Facing a weak President, the U.S. Congress, probably one of Israel's most important strategic and political assets, is gaining strength the likes of which it has not had since the low days of Richard Nixon.

Congressional involvement in determining U.S. foreign policies has already had an impact on the peace process. And yet, there are no signs that Israel is aware of the depth of the change in the balance of power between the legislative and the executive branches in Washington or the impact this might have on the Middle East peace efforts. [passage omitted]

For many years, mainly during the Yitzhaq Shamir era, Israel and the Jewish lobbies specialized in recruiting congressmen to repel pressure by the U.S. Administration for political concessions by Israel.

Since then, the Israeli and U.S. administrations have changed, and the term "friends of Israel" in Washington has taken on a new shape. Clinton and Rabin are blessed with relations of friendship and understanding cultivated through the peace process. The term "U.S. pressure" was filed away, and the watchdogs on Capitol Hill have become almost non-essential (with, of course, the exception of defense and civilian aid, and other matters not directly related to political issues).

Nevertheless, this space was not left empty. Marginal, though loud and effective, right-wing Jewish groups—well guided by the settlers and Likud activists—are garnering the support of American officials for initiatives that aim to foil the peace moves by the two governments. They had 82 senators sign a letter calling on Clinton to veto the UN Security Council resolution regarding the Hebron massacre, designed to the get the PLO back to the negotiating table.

An ephemeral organization called the Zionists of America found 15 senators from constituencies densely populated by Jews and turned them into watchdogs over the PLO. Their duty is to hold on to every slip by Yasir 'Arafat in order to disturb the U.S.-PLO relations and the continued negotiations on the fate of the West Bank.

Official, elected Israel chose to remain vague. Often (as, for example, during the struggle against the appointment of Strobe Talbott as deputy secretary of state) the congressmen believed that Jerusalem is pleased that its work is being done by others. The members of the congress did not hear a clear Israeli Government stand regarding the monitoring of the PLO or the veto on the condemnation of the Hebron incident.

The only Middle East-related initiatives they could find were those of the right. This, therefore, was the only way for them to demonstrate their friendship to their Jewish voters. These very days, some two dozen senators pledged to the right-wing activists that they would work to foil the initiative of placing U.S. troops on the Golan Heights in the framework of a peace and withdrawal agreement between Israel and Syria.

A new poll conducted among Jewish communities found that 88 percent support the Israeli Government's peace moves. This contradicts the claim that the game is rigged, that U.S. Jews are leaning to the right, pulling their congressional representatives in that direction. Even if the findings had been slightly bolstered, there is a great political might there. Once the Israeli Government decides on its course of action, it will find a wall-to-wall coalition supporting it in Washington.

Prime Minister Denounces Israeli 'Piracy'

Meeting Held on Operation

NC2405085294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 May 94

[Report by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din at the Presidential Palace—recorded]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denounced Israel's piracy, which contradicts all norms and proves that Israel is not serious about peace. Prime Minister al-Hariri denied that there is any hesitation about adopting a stance on the Israeli piracy, noting that Lebanon is studying the possibility of submitting a complaint against this crime.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri held a meeting this morning during which they discussed the Israeli piracy operation and the measures the government will adopt. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Condemns Abduction

NC2305121894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has condemned Israel's abduction of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani from his home in Qasr Naba, Ba'labakk, at dawn on Saturday, describing it as a violation of international law. Buwayz began contacts with several world circles and Lebanon's permanent delegation at the United Nations a few hours after the abduction to secure al-Dirani's early release.

Buwayz said: I strongly condemn this act, which is an aggression against Lebanon's security and compromises the Middle East peace process at a time when the ongoing negotiations and contacts seek a solution to the crisis.

A diplomatic source at the Foreign Ministry said Lebanese diplomatic contacts are under way to discuss lodging a complaint with the Security Council against Israel.

Muslims Urged To Carry Arms

LD2305181994 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Ba'labakk, May 23, IRNA—Former secretary general of Lebanese Hizballah, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, here Monday urged Lebanese Muslims to carry arms and defend themselves against the Zionist regime.

Interviewed by IRNA, al-Tufayli criticized the Lebanese Government for its silence vis-a-vis the crimes being committed by the Zionist regime, and held the government responsible for the abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani, leader of the Mu'manah resistance group. Al-Dirani was abducted from his home in al-Biqa' by the Zionist commandos last Saturday.

"From now on Lebanese people cannot trust the security provided by the Lebanese Government," he said.

Al-Tufayli warned that silence of the Lebanese officials would further encourage the Zionist regime to continue its crimes and violate the human rights in Lebanon.

Fatah Officer Killed in 'Personal Dispute'

NC2305115994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Citing security sources today, REUTER reports that Bassam Fawzi Mi'ari, a major in the Fatah Movement, was killed yesterday, Sunday, in a personal dispute with three members of the same movement. The Palestinian Armed Struggle Movement arrested one of the three, a man named Tariq 'Allush, for firing the shot and handed him over to the Lebanese Army in Sidon.

Iranian Aid to Islamic Jihad 'Completely Severed'

NC2005184294 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 9 May 94 p 10

[Text] Iran has completely severed its financial aid to the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. The movement has traditionally had good relations with Iran. Its secretary general, Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, was given a head-of-state welcome when he visited Tehran two months ago to participate in celebrations marking the international Jerusalem day. He was also given the honor of delivering his speech right after the Iranian leader 'Ali Khamene'i gave his. Al-Shiqaqi left Tehran with many promises of support for his movement but none of these promises came true. On the contrary, all assistance was cut off, a Palestinian source told AL-SHIRA'.

According to the same source, the Iranian move can be explained either by there being differences among various factions within the Iranian authority or by a change in Iranian policy. The latter is more likely, the source said, because Iran is giving more priority to the Arab Gulf region, the (formerly Soviet) Islamic republics, and Afghanistan.

The source added that Iran wishes to allay western pressure on Iran by declining to play a direct role in the Middle East. The United States had advised Iran not to oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement, or to obstruct the agreement signed in Oslo and the peace process.

According to the same source, Iran made a number of promises to the alliance of Palestinian forces but it failed to deliver. This indicates that Iran is not serious in what it says. The source said Iran determines its policy in light of its own interests, not the interests and designs of those vying for its help. The source predicted that Iran will eventually discontinue its already reduced aid to Hizballah.

Iran used to pay pensions to the families of those killed in the course of the intifadah through the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, in appreciation of the latter's role in the intifadah and the impressive operations it mounted against Israeli forces and settlers. Two years ago, however, this assistance was discontinued. The reason was that Iran supported a split within the movement's ranks in which Shaykh Sayyid Barakah, a former leader of the movement, announced the establishment of Hizballah (Palestine). Barakah failed to win over al-Jihad members, however, and al-Shiqaqi refused to give in to his breakaway group.

Consequently, Iran shifted its support away from al-Shiqaqi, giving Barakah command of al-Shahid [martyr] institution in Lebanon. Meanwhile, it gave the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] the responsibility of distributing the pensions to the martyrs of the intifadah.

According to press reports, PFLP-GC Central Committee Member Mustafa Khamis, who lives in Jordan, recently broke away from the PFLP-GC, and formed an Islamic General Command [qiyadah 'amah islamiyah]. No reason was given for the split. Khamis spent 15 years in Israeli jails, and was released in 1979 in an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the PFLP-GC. Khamis' motives for the split are said to be linked with PFLP-GC suspicions surrounding his role in forging documents and embezzling funds allocated to the martyrs families in the occupied land. Iran has no remaining allies in Palestine and Lebanon who are not so employed.

Al-Hariri Returns From Private Visit to Paris

NC2305195794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut at 2115 today from Paris aboard his private jet after spending the 'Id al-Adha holiday with family members.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Refuses To Resign, Calls For Council

LD2105103794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has accused Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister of that country, of triggering the current round of fighting and the war during the past two years. He reiterated that he would not accept the opposition's request to give up power.

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, Rabbani, who was speaking during 'Id al-Adha prayers among his supporters in Jabal Saraj, north of Kabul, claimed: The government's resignation today would lead to chaos in the country. At the same time, the Afghan president said that if a grand council [shuray-e bozorg] were to be formed by the representatives of the people of Afghanistan, he would unconditionally accept the decisions of that council on selecting a president and a cabinet. He called for the cooperation of all factions for the formation of such a council in 40 days' time, when his term of office comes to an end.

The rival factions in the Afghan war are observing a cease-fire on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. Kabul and the rest of Afghanistan's towns and cities have been calm so far.

Hekmatyar Rejects Proposal To Create Council

LD2205171994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar [as heard] rejected yesterday's proposal by Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of that country, about the formation of a grand decision-making council in Afghanistan within the next 40 days.

Hekmatyar, who was speaking at an interview with the Central News Unit in Kabul, said the motive behind forming that council was to extend the term of the presidency of Borhanoddin Rabbani and prolong the war and killings in Afghanistan.

He also declared his agreement with the formation of a coalition government and powersharing between the country's political parties and groups.

The Afghan prime minister also called for the holding of general elections in that country by a neutral government acceptable to all political parties and groups, but did not refer to the manner of forming that neutral government.

Rabbani's 'Id al-Adha Address

LD2105222994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1540 GMT 21 May 94

[Address by President Borhannodin Rabbani on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha festival on 21 May; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear listeners: Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has delivered a radio speech on the occasion of the auspicious 'Id al-Adha. It was transmitted at 1200 today. Now we draw your attention to the Pashto text of the speech.

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Faithful compatriots, brothers and sisters, peace be upon you. I congratulate you honorable, afflicted, Mojahedin, brave, refugee faithful and patient Afghans and Afghan Hajji who right now fulfill the sacred duty of Hajj, and all Muslims of the world on behalf of myself and the leadership board.

'Id al-Adha is the great day of success and test that God put before two of his true slaves, revered Ibrahim Khalilollah and revered Ismail Dhabihollah. The submission and full obedience of those two obedient slaves of God to fulfill the order of God, and also of those who truthfully make efforts to carry out the orders and instructions of God, is a manifestation of the kindness of God. By the better observance of this 'Id, the people of Afghanistan reaffirm their intent to carry out the orders and instructions of Almighty God.

Dear compatriots, the people of Afghanistan, especially the afflicted, patient, and faithful people of Kabul, mark the 'Id, which are naturally days of religious happiness, unfortunately in [words indistinct] conditions and a situation that is the product of the inhumane and anti-Islamic conspiracies of a group of traitors to the country elements. Since the establishment of the Islamic regime in our beloved country, basically the people should have been living in tranquillity and security. But those groups and elements who see their interests in problems and tense situations many a time prevented the establishment of stability and security in the country by conflagration of war, and have inflicted on our Muslim and afflicted people much pain and suffering.

The coup d'etat of 1 January 1994, which was an anti-Islamic and anti-nation failed criminal attempt, took place in such circumstances that the state was completely ready for understanding with related sides, while they were clearly right at the outset saying that they had started a coup d'etat. Those remarks of theirs are recorded in all home and foreign news networks. But after the failure of the putschists in their sinister goals, they now allege that the Islamic state continues the fighting, while the whole nation and the world are completely aware about who started the coup d'etat and the fighting by those elements. There are irrefutable documents in this respect.

The incidents of the past two years and especially the coup d'etat of the anti-Islamic and anti-nation triangle proved that fighting is not a solution. Those who insist on a military solution will gain no benefit from this other than the shortening of their political lives. Therefore, political understanding and talks for the solution of problems will be respected. While in a completely tangible military advantage, on the basis of a peaceful strategy, the state strongly believes that through talks and respect for the will and wish of the people a confident way can be found for the solution of problems. The Islamic state believes that the decision and view of the people is the best testing field to separate right from wrong, and can issue their resolution and determination about the circumstances of problems and their future.

The people strongly condemn war and warmongers. The people hate those who ruthlessly and savagely attack residential areas and innocent and defenseless people with heavy weapons. The people consider those who block roads to prevent the supply of material needed by the people in the cities and residential areas the enemies of Islam, the country, and the people. The people consider those who have are the cause of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan a means in the hand of the aliens, and the enemies of independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country and historic pride of Afghanistan. Therefore, it is not surprising that those kind of people who are afraid of the people's judgement and will, because they think if they respected the right of the people to determine their fate, will face political elimination.

The Islamic state is of the opinion that only the people have the right and power to decide about the election of their country's political leader. No group and force should attempt to count itself as the people, impose their will as the will of the people. Thus, in our opinion, the practical way to resolve the problems and the method of ensuring lasting peace and security are to go to the people's votes, because this act is customary in the whole free and contemporary world where people are referred to for the election of the future leader of the country and its political structure.

Therefore, a gathering of the representatives of people is to be convened that will be proportionally participated in by all nationalities and tribes of the country and the followers of all schools of thoughts [mazhab]. This gathering of the people's representatives can be called a Loya Jerga, [word indistinct] Shura, constituent assembly, or by another name. To convene such a assembly in [words indistinct] a commission will be formed of the impartial, peace-seeking, benevolent, and expert [ahl-e nazar] personalities. The commission will be financed by the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization [words indistinct]. Esteemed jihadi organizations, commanders, ulema and clergy, reconciliation councils, Islamic peace delegations, university teachers, and influential tribal and social personalities will cooperate in the formation of the commission. This commission will set the date of the convening of the council and its term of reference, set out the conditions and [word indistinct] of the leadership candidates, and will present to the council the list of candidates for this position. The state elaborates on a comprehensive draft in this respect that will be announced after consultation.

In order that this movement will continue speedily and effectively, it is necessary for a permanent cease-fire to come into effect and communication roads to be opened. The commission will supervise the openness of the roads and the cease-fire. For the sanctity of the 'Id al-Adha, the Islamic State declares a cease-fire as from Saturday [21 May] to the end of the week. It is to be mentioned that the Islamic State of Afghanistan appreciates the sincere and honest efforts that have so far been made to ensure peace in the country. The Islamic State of Afghanistan very much values the efforts made by the Conciliation Council, Ghazni Council, and other peace delegations, as well as the efforts of the UN delegation headed by esteemed Mahmud Mestiri, and the interest of friendly countries that want to play a role in ensuring peace in Afghanistan, and hopes for those efforts to be accelerated and harmonized so that they very soon lead to such a solution that guarantees the interests of the Muslim and free Afghan nation, and to ensure peace and security in this country for good. I should add that in connection with ensuring peace and security in Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan welcomes the friendly country of Pakistan's sincere efforts that have recently been announced by the foreign affairs minister of that country.

Dear compatriots, as the accepted Islamic custom considers 'Id days the days of happiness, consider them days of establishment of friendship and reconciliation, on the basis of this good custom, we too, once again ask those people who want to play a role in the solution of the current problems of the country and in bringing peace and tranquillity to this land's afflicted people, who deserve any pity and assistance, to sincerely and truly cooperate in reducing the pains and suffering of our country's Muslim and oppressed people, and not to try to increase bloody wounds on the body of the afflicted people of this land by firing bullets. We hold out our hands of sincerity and cordiality to them. We hope that they should too, use sensibility and thinking instead of emotions, and to render in the interest of peace their Islamic duty and their national and historic responsibility, which completely complies with our Islamic and Afghan seemly customs, for the cessation of the fighting and for all out peace in this country that has suffered [word indistinct] of the war and has no strength to endure any further (?domination) and pressure.

Once again I congratulate you on 'Id. I wish from Almighty God [words indistinct] and to enable the Muslim Afghan nation to mark the coming 'Ids in an atmosphere of peace, friendship, and fraternity [words indistinct]. I wish success and prosperity for you in this respect. This word uttered and may God forgive you and me. Indeed He is forgiving and merciful.

India

Enforcement of New Copyright Law Outlined

BK2005140294 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 May 94 p 11

[Text] New Delhi - The Government is hoping to tighten the enforcement of copyright laws against pirated video films and radio cassettes through new training programmes to educate police and customs officials on the intricacies of intellectual property rights.

Come November, a series of seminars will be held in Delhi in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation in Geneva for senior levels of the police and customs departments.

These seminars will shift later to the states for the benefit of junior officials.

The Centre is also planning to request the states to set up a Copyright Enforcement Cell which will oversee the enforcement of the copyright laws.

Briefing newspersons on the amended Copyright Law passed by Parliament last week, the Additional Secretary in the Education Department, Y.N. Chaturvedi admitted that the Law was a "braintwister". Its implementation was faulty, he said mainly because the police, which is the enforcing agency, did not have a basic knowledge of its provisions.

Regarding the recent Amendment, Chaturvedi said it would have "far reaching effects" in protecting the intellectual property rights of creative artists, particularly the poorer and more vulnerable ones.

One of the important changes introduced by the Amendment is redefining what constitutes a copyrighted musical work. The Amendment moves away from the traditional British definition that musical compositions had to be written of notation to warrant copyright protection.

Since much of Indian music is not in the form of graphic notations, the identity of a musical composition will now be through its author, Chaturvedi said.

In addition, the Amendment for the first time gives rights to performers such as snake charmers, acrobats, conjurers, actors and singers, making it mandatory for anybody to seek their permission for a video or audio recording.

Computer programmes, cinematograph films and sound recordings have also been brought under the purview of the Act with the Amendment.

Another first is the introduction of the mechanism of collective registration for creative artists. By forming a duly registered society, these artists can fight for their rights against exploitation by economically powerful producers.

Ministry: Copyright Bill Not Linked To Rao's U.S. Visit

BK2205093194 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 18 May 94 p 8

[Text] New Delhi 17 May—The Human Resource Development Ministry has denied that the passage of the amended Copyright Law in the parliament last week was in any way connected to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's U.S. visit. Yogendra Nath Chaturvedi, additional secretary in the ministry, and other senior officials during their informal talks with reporters said that it was only a coincidence that the law was passed on eve of the prime minister's U.S. visit. According to some press reports, the law was passed in 'haste' just before the prime minister's U.S. visit. Rao, by getting the law passed in the parliament, wanted to assure the United States that legal arrangements have been made to stop the theft of U.S computer programs. The Prime Minister's Office was afraid that this issue would be raised during Rao's visit. The general complaint of U.S. computer companies is that the theft of their computer programs is very common in India.

The ministry officials today clarified that in fact the joint parliamentary committee formed to study the law had submitted its report on the last day of the monsoon session of the parliament. Following that, the law was given its final touches after consultations with various ministries, including the Law Ministry. It was not possible to table the bill to this effect in the parliament before the budget session.

According to Chaturvedi, Shahid Ali Khan, former deputy director general of the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Association, has termed the bill as the one of the best copyright laws in the world, which has incorporated all "progressive" steps keeping in view all new challenges likely to be posed. He said to ensure strict enforcement of the law at least in the state capitals, state governments are being asked to set up a cell in the police department. The cell will comprise police and military personnel. The training of these personnel for enforcement of the copyright law will be entrusted to the Human Resource Development Ministry. Other than this, the ministry will organize a seminar in November, with the help of World Intellectual Property Association, to create public awareness about the copyright law. Such seminars are also planned at the state level.

Chaturvedi said that the main aim of the amended Coyright Law is to protect interests of big publishers, video and cable operators, writers, artists, and musicians. With this aim in view, the bill has a provision for setting up copyright societies. These societies will provide legal protection to their members. The members in turn will pay a small part of their royalty to the concerned society. Such societies are very popular in Balkan states, Japan, and Germany. However, it will not be compulsory for writers and artists in India to be members of such societies as it is in other countries.

According to Chaturvedi, now video recordings of the public performances by artists, singers, dancers, and snake charmers will not be allowed without their permission. There was no such arrangement earlier. The law especially ensures that the royalty paid for the work of writers or artists will be clearly mentioned in the contract. It will also have to be made clear in the contract between the two sides as to what will be the transfer area, period and geographic limit of a copyright.

Iran

Saudi Police Said Creating 'Problems' at Hajj Camp

LD2305105194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Glorious ceremonies were held at the leader's hajj headquarters last night on the third night that pilgrims to the House of God camped at the holy land of al-Mina. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Dear listeners of the midday bulletin of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran: I speak to you from the holy land of al-Mina. Tens of thousands of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims took part in ceremonies held at his eminence the leader's headquarters in the holy land of al-Mina last night. The chants of Death to America and Death to Israel of the participants could be heard all over the camp where the Islamic Republic of Iran's hajj caravans stayed. At the same time fully equipped Saudi special commandos surrounded the leader's headquarters and the area where the Iranian pilgrims resided and controlled comings and goings and created problems for the Iranian pilgrims. So many pilgrims had gathered at the ceremony that the leader's headquarters and the tents beside it were filled with people.

During the ceremonies, Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi, one of the Qom Seminary scholars, spoke on the philosophy of the uprising of His Holiness Abraham, peace be upon him, and the implementation of divine orders at that holy land. He stressed: What was special about the action taken by His Holiness Abraham was the breaking of idols and his decisiveness against infidels and the declaration of the disavowal of the infidels.

Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi referred to the leadership role of the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult] in guiding the Muslim society toward understanding God and said: We believe that the Islamic Republic is in line with the implementation of Islamic principles and the uprising of the idol-smashing Abraham. Therefore the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran continue to listen to the command of the leader of the revolution and implement their duties. He pointed out: The day that the late imam [Khomeyni] decreed that the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies should be held, the Iranian nation obeyed the order and even sacrificed a great deal of blood for that holy cause. Today also, abiding by the orders of his eminence the leader, it treads the path of its supreme ideals.

Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi said: If the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies were cancelled in holy Mecca and our people put up with it, this was to protect the sanctity of that divine sanctuary [the Ka'bah]. And it was due to the discernment and vigilance of the leader of the Islamic revolution that the ceremonies were cancelled.

Daily Assails King Fahd's Message to Pilgrims

LD2405092794 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—A Persian daily Tuesday wrote that King Fahd's message to the hajj pilgrims on Sunday was contrary to the reasonable expectations of the world of Islam. The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that in fact the Saudi ruler was expected to invite people to close ranks, urge Muslims to properly employ their potentials to counter enemies of Islam and, avoid discord.

On the contrary, in his message King Fahd called on the U.S. President Bill Clinton to take further steps towards peace with the Zionist regime and voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with the U.S. Administration, Arab states and international bodies interested in the American-sponsored peace in the region.

The Saudi ruler's message further proves the authenticity of the reports that the Zionist regime had threatened the Saudi Government it would be deprived of attending the Arab-Israel talks if 'disavowal of unbelievers' rally were held in Mecca.

King Fahd's message indicates to the fact that he wanted the Zionist regime and the U.S. keep their promise and enter Saudi Arabia into the dangerous game on the fate of the Muslim Palestinian nation, said the article.

Fahd had called for the handing over of the three Iranian islands to the United Arab Emirates and claimed that the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council would support Abu Dhabi in Iran-UAE dispute.

Elsewhere in his message, the article noted, Fahd tried to inculcate the idea that there were some disputes among Persian Gulf states with the aim to make hajj pilgrims believe that regional countries and nations are not able to reach understanding and therefore need some guardians.

Turning to the role that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has played in the region, the editorial said that he would count on lackey governments to help the U.S. come out of the Middle East quagmire. Through preventing the 'disavowal of unbelievers' rally, finalizing Gaza-Jericho accord and, creating a state of terror in Lebanon and occupied Palestine, Warren Christopher and his agents try to pretend that the Zionist regime hold the upper hand in the region, it said. By sowing discord among regional countries, the U.S. intends to prepare the ground for the emergence of a new source of tension in the region, said the editorial.

The article regretted the fact that the lackey Arab front has rendered great assistance to materialization of Christopher's conspiracies, adding that King Fahd's message is the latest in the chain.

Yazdi Condemns Saudi Behavior, Israeli Kidnapping

LD2305173894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The Saudis' inappropriate treatment of Iranian pilgrims, and the restrictions and obstacles they created for them with regard to the observance of the disavowal of the pagans rituals, not only do not accord with the dignity of the custodian of Mecca and the observance of sanctuary, but also, in terms of political culture and the interests of the world community, did not constitute the best solution.

Speaking at a meeting today of the country's judicial authorities, Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, said: Governmental sense and wisdom dictate that, in order to solve a particular case, the Saudi authorities should not set themselves up against the world of Islam and regional countries and face unanswerable questions from public opinion.

The judiciary chief said the recent action of the Zionist regime was overt theft and blatant kidnapping. He declared: Such ugly behavior by the illegitimate offspring of world arrogance is not surprising, particularly since the raison d'etre of the Zionist regime is usurpation and delinquence. The deathly silence of the international forums and organizations who talk about human rights is surprising and regrettable, however.

Commentary on Abduction of Lebanon's al-Dirani

NC2205073294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 May 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Yesterday the Zionist regime carried out a new terrorist act by resorting to a kidnapping inside Lebanese territory. Dozens of armed men attacked a village in southern Lebanon on Saturday morning and kidnapped Mustafa al-Dirani, the head of Lebanon's faithful resistance, from his village home.

In reaction to this kidnapping, the Lebanese Hizballah issued a statement yesterday in which it said that the Zionist regime's fresh crime is a manifestation of the terrorist nature of a regime supported by America. Stating that the Islamic ummah has no alternative but to resist the Zionist regime, the Lebanese Hizballah called on all of Lebanon's party and official circles to react to this kidnapping.

Also, 'Allamah Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, one of Lebanon's Shiite leaders, described the Zionist regime's terrorist act as a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and called on the UN Security Council to strive for al-Dirani's release. In reaction to this incident, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, another Lebanese Shiite clerical leader, pointed out that the Lebanese Government's sovereignty has been violated, and he criticized Europe and the United States for their silence vis-a-vis Israel's renewed aggression against Lebanon.

Five years ago, in 1989, the Zionist regime took hostage another Hizballah leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, in the same manner, kidnapping him from his home. Also, in 1992 a Zionist helicopter violated Lebanese airspace and fired a rocket at the car carrying Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi and his wife, martyring both of them.

The Zionist regime's flaunting of international practice and its aggressive nature has turned the Middle East into a constant hotbed of crisis. Following yesterday's kidnapping, Zionist Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres admitted that the terrorist act had been carried out and lied that the Zionist regime's military ability to strike at its opponents even inside Lebanese territory is very high. Apart from the fact that this overt confession can be used as a proof to condemn the Zionist regime in international circles, it should also not be forgotten that military experts consider this escapade by the Zionist regime to be worthless and an act stemming from weakness.

Paper Criticizes Charges of Supporting 'Terrorism'

NC2105091494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 May 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Supporter of Terrorism"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department recently published a report in which it accused seven countries as the main supporters of terrorism.

The U.S. authorities have included Iran among the seven countries, and have levelled their strongest attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The report claims Iran trains what the American authorities call fundamentalist terrorists, and dispatches them to the other Islamic countries.

A cursory glance will reveal that all of the 7 countries included in the list are those Third World countries that are not prepared to give in to the American global superpower role, and oppose Washington's expansionist policies.

CIA has been the greatest center for training terrorists, and it has frequently resorted to devilish plots such as coup d'etats including the 1953 coup in Iran and the coup engineered against the legitimate government of Dr. Allende in Chile in the 70s—and assassination of numerous political figures around the world.

In fact coup d'etats and assassinations have been among the basic components of the American foreign policy in the decades after World War II.

The relation between the American government and the terrorist groups is an undeniable fact. How else could one explain the meeting of the American Vice-President with a terrorist group whose acts of terrorism have been proved on the basis of evidences provided by the U.S. Government itself.

Thus it is quite obvious that Washington's attempt in accusing Iran and six other countries of giving support to terrorist groups is only meant to divert world public opinion from its own activities.

Syria is also accused of support for terrorists mainly in connection with its activities in Lebanon. But political observers have no doubt that this is a clear case of blackmail. In other words Syria will automatically be crossed off the list of governments supporting terrorism as soon as Syria has accepted the Zionist aggression in the Golan Heights.

So on the eve of Christopher's new round of trip to the Middle East with the mission of putting pressure on Syria and making it accept the imposed peace arrangements, it is understandable why Washington brings out such accusatory reports.

Editors Refuse To Meet U.S. Counterparts

Visit Motives Questioned

NC2105111194 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 May 94 p 2

[Text] News section—The director general for foreign press and mass media at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance wrote to invite the chief editors of the country's newspapers to participate in a meeting on Saturday afternoon, 14 May (today) with American chief editors affiliated with the Association of American Chief Editors. The invitation makes no mention of the topics to be discussed and gives no explanation on the objective of this meeting.

It is still not clear who invited the American editors to Iran or why the foreign press and mass media director general at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has extended this invitation to the American journalists.

Over the past years, America has made extensive and futile efforts to find a way to open the door to dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Apparently a dialogue between the American and Iranian chief editors is a new ploy by the Americans to achieve their goal. During the past 15 years, American publications have disseminated the most poisonous propaganda against the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Journalism is one of the masks that the Americans use to send their spies to other countries, and the American journalists who have visited the Islamic Republic of Iran have always disseminated false and biased reports about Iran.

With its clear assessment of such dialogues, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI refuses to attend this meeting. There is still no precise information on whether the chief editors of other newspapers will or will not attend this dialogue.

U.S. Media's 'Black Record' Cited

NC2105115094 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 May 94 p 2

[Commentary by the Public Relations Department of KEYHAN Publications]

[Text] The respected director general of foreign press and mass media affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has sent a letter to the chief editors of the country's newspapers, inviting them to attend a meeting with 13 chief editors of American publications affiliated with the Association of American Editors which is to be held at the ETTELA'AT publications office this afternoon. The respected director general's letter does not indicate who invited this 13-man delegation and what the objective behind this dialogue is. He also does not clarify if the dialogue with the Iranian chief editors is the only program or if something else has also been planned. The choosing of the ETTELA'AT offices as the venue of this meeting gives rise to the strong belief that the American chief editors have been invited by ETTELA'AT Publications to Iran! If this is so, then the question is: On what criterion was this invitation based? And if there was no criterion, then what is happening?

The letter from the director general for foreign mass media affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the Public Relations Department of KEYHAN Publications invites some of the chief editors of KEYHAN Publications to attend a dialogue with the American chief editors. Since the aspects of this dialogue have not been clarified and the experience of the past few years has clearly shown that the American mass media, namely American publications, have continuously had a spiteful attitude toward the Muslim people and the Islamic revolution, and since the ugly and black record of the American mass media and publications shows that they have always distorted facts and disseminated false reports in order to poison public opinion toward Islamic Iran and its people, none of the chief editors of KEYHAN Publications will attend the meeting. The esteemed Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is asked to give more explanations on why this invitation was extended and what the objectives behind it are.

Dialogue Effort Viewed

NC2105122394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Wrong Reasoning"]

[Text] Following the reciprocal visits paid by Iranian journalists to several countries, namely Germany, Kuwait, and Lebanon, some foreign policy and cultural officials came to believe that they can seize this opportunity to establish a dialogue between Iranian and American journalists as well, and thus find a way to open the door of dialogue between the two countries! Arranging the visit of 13 chief editors from American publications to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is said to have taken place with the coordination of our country's representation at the United Nations and the director general for foreign mass media affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, was apparently based on this same assumption.

Fortunately none of the chief editors of the Iranian newspapers accepted the invitation to meet with the American chief editors, and the plan failed. The conclusions that can be drawn from this failure are noteworthy. First of all, the Iranian chief editors' refusal to meet with the American chief editors shows that a strong anti-American atmosphere still exists in Iranian press circles, and the Americans should realize that they are hated by all the social strata in Iran.

Secondly, in the past two days since the press raised this issue, many people from various walks of life have called to strongly criticize those who made the preparations for the American chief editors' visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to thank the Iranian chief editors for refusing to participate in this dialogue. This means that the Iranian nation's strong hatred for America continues.

Thirdly, if there are those in various parts of the system of the Islamic Republic with a "wrong reasoning" who think that through such attempts, they can open a door to dialogue with America, they are very mistaken and will be confronted with the people's rage and negative responses. At any rate, public opinion now expects the related sources to follow up the issue and to clarify the situation.

Pakistan

Bhutto Vows To Retain 'Peaceful' Nuclear Program

BK1705024794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has declared that Pakistan will not give up its peaceful nuclear program under any circumstances. She was talking to a group of newsmen in Islamabad this evening. She made it clear that they were pursuing a well-thoughtout policy in this connection and Pakistan could ill afford to dispense with its knowledge in this vital field. She pointed that Pakistan has been subjected to three wars in the past and it was dismembered also. She recalled that Pakistan had never violated the Nonproliferation Treaty and it was India which violated it by exploding a nuclear device.

Minister: India Aware of Country's 'Deterrent Power'

BK1805085494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The Senate was assured this morning that there will be no unilateral capping or freezing of Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. Speaking on the admissibility of the identical adjournment motions, the federal interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, said there is no reality in the report that the American deputy secretary of state during his recent visit put forward proposals for capping of nuclear program. He said the present government has more than once indicated clearly that there will be no such unilateral action. He assured that the Pakistan People's Party government will never be a party to any design that will limit our national objectives. He said India is fully aware that Pakistan has a deterrent power and that is the reason that Pakistan is safe against any offensive from the adversary.

Spokesman Voices 'Concern' Over Arms Race With India

BK1305140294 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 13 May 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Avoiding a Missile Race"]

[Text] A spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office has expressed concern over the Indian decision to deploy Prithvi and Agni missiles on the grounds that it will greatly enhance the possibility of a nuclear arms race in the region. While Pakistan in the context of its security environment is more concerned with the short range Prithvi missile, it is the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) Agni, that has a range of 2500 km and can carry a heavy payload, which, to an even greater extent, underlines India's aggressive defence posture. A missile of this type, in the presence of a high degree of accuracy, is significant not least because of its ability to carry nuclear warheads over a long range. This has caused even countries well beyond the region to question India's intentions. However, given the unfortunate history of conflict between India and Pakistan, the latter has felt more compelled to take defensive measures with regard to India's ambitious missile programme. Apart from attempting to develop indigenous missile technology to the best of its ability, Pakistan has incurred a small number of M-11 missiles from China. It has argued in response to US pressure on this score that the acquisition of these missiles does not violate the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCRL). However, the real issue here is that if Pakistan perceives a major threat to its security as a result of the imminent deployment of the Prithvi missile, it is bound to take steps that provide it with the minimum necessary level of deterrence.

The matter is further aggravated when India's activities in this realm are seen in tandem with its ambitious and secretive nuclear programme. It is in this context that the

Foreign Office spokesman has expressed legitimate fears. It is time for India to consider the cost of a prohibitively explosive race in the realm of missiles and nuclear weapons for the extremely deprived masses of the region. Neither country can really afford to enter into such a race. Certainly, Pakistan is already having to spend far too much on defence primarily because of India's continual enhancement of its already formidable defence capability as well as its aggressive stance, not just towards Pakistan, but the countries of the region, in general. Finding a solution to the nuclear issue in South Asia remains a difficult task not least as a result of India's intransigence in this regard. But, meanwhile, it would be eminently sensible if a beginning could be made on the missile front. If India were to restrain the production and deployment of missiles, it would contribute in bringing down the level of tension between the two countries and score an important confidence building measure that could possibly pave the way for progress on the more complex nuclear issue. Perhaps US policy-makers could take up the matter with the Indian prime minister on his upcoming visit to the United States. It would be even better, of course, if India were willing to make the issue a subject of meaningful bilateral negotiations with Pakistan.

Indian Missiles Said To Threaten Regional Peace

BK1405104394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[Text] India's decision to deploy long-range nuclear missiles—Prithvi and Agni—has caused understandable concern to Pakistan. The Indian move will greatly enhance the threat to peace and security in South Asia and as a spokesman of Pakistan's Foreign Office observed the other day, it will raise the specter of a nuclear arms race in the region. In view of the ongoing internal uprising in held Kashmir and the unresolved dispute between India and Pakistan over the future status of Jammu and Kashmir, and also the historical fact that there have been three major armed conflicts between the two countries since their independence, Pakistan will be the most likely target of India's newly acquired military muscle. In long term, of course, there will be other countries who would also have to face up to the reality of life when India decides to flex its muscle in pursuance of its hegemonic designs in the region and its ambition of becoming a regional superpower.

Pakistan has, therefore, conveyed its concern over the matter to the Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR, countries that include, among others, the United States. Hopefully, the MTCR nations would respond positively to Pakistan's message and exercise their collective and individual influence over India to give up dabbling in nuclear missilery and other weaponry of mass destruction. Given India's intransigence over the issue, or for that matter over any bilateral or multilateral issues throughout 47 years of its existence as an independent nation, the pursuance of Pakistani request by the MTCR countries is going to be a formidable task. The Indian prime minister has given a fair proof of it. Addressing the Indian Parliament on the eve of his departure for the United States on an official visit, Mr. Narasimha Rao chose to rule out the possibility that he might agree to roll back India's nuclear or missile program during his U.S. trip. In fact, his decision for any such suggestion was forceful and vehement and he remarked that a leader would be worthless if he changed the policies of his government during visits to foreign countries. He reiterated that his government would firmly adhere to its nuclear and missile development policies. (?While) on one hand, India is pressing ahead with its militaristic designs and augmentation of its military might at a hectic pace, on the other hand, it is [word indistinct] upon its own brand of disinformation and spread of false propaganda against Pakistan. To blame the revolt of Kashmiri people against the Indian occupation on Pakistan is easy enough. It now holds Pakistan responsible for trouble even inside its northeastern states that are over a thousand mile distance from Pakistan. It is also engaged in repeating the wild stories of Pakistan's complicity in last year's bomb blasts in Bombay. Along with its diplomatic and publicity offensive, India is also busy in acts of sabotage and mischief in liberated areas of Kashmir. It is also indulging in violations of the airspace of Azad Kashmir. Several Indian military helicopters flew along the Line of Control on 5 May and on two occasions, they crossed over into Azad Kashmir, besides two Indian terrorists were apprehended recently in Kotli sector of Azad Kashmir. They were carrying 52 kg of explosives and had confessed that they were on a sabotage mission at the behest of the Indian authorities. All these have ominous forebodings for peace and tranquillity in South Asia, particularly the deployment of Agni and Prithvi missiles must be seen as an important landmark in India's nuclear capability and a clear adoption of a threatening posture against small neighbors, Pakistan being on the top of the list.

President on 'Private Visit' to United States

Leghari Departs From Lahore

BK2005055194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, left Lahore this morning on a two-weeks visit to the United States. The president was accompanied by the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Watto, and other members of the entourage. He was seen off at the Lahore Airport by the Punjab governor, Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain. The senior Punjab minister, Maqdoom Altaf Ahmad, and provincial ministers were also present. The president will have stopovers in London and Paris on his way to the United States. During his stay in the United States, the president, Mr.

Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, is likely to meet a number of U.S. officials, as well as businessmen, to project and explain Pakistan's economic and foreign policies.

Previews Talks During UK Stopover

BK2305070994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Pakistan's relations with the United States are not confined to one direction, but covered a large area and must be viewed in their full complexity. Talking to APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] in London before his departure for the United States, he denied that relations between Pakistan and America have suffered any setback. He said some people viewed relations only in the context of nuclear nonproliferation. Pakistan, in this context, has made it clear that it supported the principle of ban on nuclear proliferation in the entire world, including the South Asian region. To say that only Pakistan should do it and India should not do it, is not acceptable to Pakistan.

Referring to his visit to the United States, he said he would hold talks at various levels covering foreign affairs, economy, and national security. He said he would also hold talks with officials of the IMF, exchange views with Congress House and Senate Committees, and a think tank on foreign affairs, besides meeting media organizations.

The president was seen off at the Heathrow Airport by a representative of the queen; the acting Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Moeen Jan Nayim; officials at the High Commission; and members of Pakistan community.

Arrives in Rochester

BK2305083094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that during his stay in the United States he will hold talks at various levels on political issues, foreign affairs, economic matters and national security. Talking to APP in London prior to his departure for the United States, he said that he will also exchange views with IMF authorities and hold talks with officials of Congress and Senate committees. The president refuted the impression that Pakistan-U.S. relations have suffered any jolt. He said that Pakistan's relations with the United States are not limited to only one dimension; rather, they are wide-ranging. The president said that some people view these relations only in the context of nuclear nonproliferation, which is not a correct approach. Pakistan has categorically said in this regard that on principle it favors restrictions on nuclear weapons, and to say that Pakistan should do this and India should not do this is not acceptable to Pakistan. The president was seen off at Heathrow Airport by a representative of the Queen of England, acting Pakistani High Commissioner (Naim Jan Naim), high commission officials, and Pakistani residents. Later, the president arrived in Rochester, beginning his private visit to the United States. He was received at the airport by Pakistani Ambassador Dr. Maliha Lodhi, senior officials of the Pakistani Embassy, and Pakistanis residing in the city. During this stay, the president will be given an honorary LLD degree by University of Rochester. The president will leave for Washington on 23 May, where he will have a very busy time and hold some important meetings.

Calls For Stronger Ties With U.S.

BK2405013794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has expressed the hope that relations between the United States and Pakistan will further strengthen in the coming days. He was addressing an investiture ceremony in Rochester where an honorary degree of Doctor of Law was conferred on him by the University of Rochester. The president said shared ideals and values and unshakable commitment to democracy will bind the people of Pakistan and the United States into a special union. The president said we represent a Muslim democracy and we are the world's first product of cultural and intellectual pluralism. We are proud and respectful of all the elements that shaped our being. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said nothing is more important than Islam which has sustained and nourished us. He said Pakistan and the United States have many commonalities and are pluralistic societies. He said that the degree awarded to him will be a symbol of friendship and democratic brotherhood between the two countries.

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